

ROMANS 65 – 16:3-16

Greet those in Christ

1. 16:3-4

- a. Paul encourages the saints in Rome to greet these saints dear to him
- b. The first mention of them is Paul meeting them in Corinth – Acts 18:1-3
- c. There may have already been some believers there – Acts 18:5-10
- d. Laid down their necks (perhaps in Acts 18:12 or 1 Cor 15:32) – Acts 18:18-19
- e. In Ephesus, Prisca and Aquila taught Apollos - Acts 18:24-28
 - i. “...more perfectly” – this is how those “behind” learned of the new things

2. 16:5-7

- a. Speaking of Achaia (Corinth) Epaenetus was the firstfruit there
- b. Was it Epaenetus or Stephanus? Trust your Bible to be right – 1 Cor 16:15
- c. Many Marys (also Mark, James), not all the same person – Mat 27:56, Acts 1:14
- d. “my kinsmen” – more Jews, apparently noteworthy apostles – Luke 10:1
- e. Other apostles besides the twelve - Acts 14:14, 1 Cor 4:9, Gal 1:19, 1 Thess 2:6

3. “in Christ before me”

- a. This is used to try and discredit Paul’s special ministry, gospel, and dispensation
 - i. “How can you say Paul is first if there were people in Christ before him?”
- b. They fail to understand right division. (*Study the opposition before you oppose*)
- c. Weaklings say, “being in Christ is the same as the body of Christ”... no, no, no!
- d. Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” 75/78 times in the Bible. It is Pauline, but...
- e. Paul was given the mystery of God’s will of “all things in Christ” – Eph 1:10
 - i. All things = earthly things (Israel, prophecy), & heavenly (body, mystery)
- f. Prophets spoke of Israel being glorified “in the Lord” – Isa 45:25
- g. Jesus taught to abide in him – John 6:56, 14:20, 15:1-7, 17:21-23
 - i. Problem: nobody at this time knew the cross, or the mystery of Christ!
 - ii. In him by prophecy required covenant works - 1 John 2:6, 3:24, 4:13-15
- h. Being in him now is not being a branch, but body parts (a new thing) – Eph 5:30
 - i. We are in Christ as a new creature – 2 Cor 5:17, Col 3:10-11, Eph 2:15-16
- i. All will be in Christ, but they get there differently: 1) by prophecy, 2) by mystery

4. 16:8-16

- a. Paul gives these credentials for those in Rome to know who to trust and honor
- b. Churches in houses were common b/c they were cheap, small, and secret
- c. Wealthier saints donated the bigger rooms – Matt 26:18, Acts 12:12, 1Cor 16:19
 - i. Philemon had many servants and a church in his house – Phm 2
 - ii. In Colosse there was Nymphas – Col 4:19
 - iii. The place is not important, the church is not a building but a body
- d. “an holy kiss” – speaks to true love and care, not dissimulation – Rom 12:9

Greet the Saints in Christ among the Romans

As we ask the dispensational question, “to whom is Paul speaking”, we must include in on the table these saints dear to Paul in Rome. 28 are mentioned specifically, 26 are named, and 5 other groups (plus any groups that were not mentioned that these saints belonged to). The audience would also seem to include folks not on this list of whom Paul has never met, but has heard about.

1. Aquilla – helper in Christ
2. Priscilla – helper in Christ
3. Epaeetus – the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ
4. Mary – much labour
5. Adronicus – my kinsmen, fellowprisoner, note among apostles, in Christ before Paul
6. Junia – my kinsmen, fellowprisoner, note among apostles, in Christ before Paul
7. Amplias – my beloved
8. Urbane – helper in Christ
9. Stachys – my beloved
10. Apelles – approved in Christ
11. Aristobulus & his household
12. Herodian – my kinsmen
13. Narcissus & his household
14. Tryphena – labour in the Lord
15. Tryphosa – labour in the Lord
16. Persis – beloved, laboured much in the Lord
17. Rufus – chosen
18. Rufus’ mother
19. Asyncritus
20. Phlegon
21. Hermas
22. Patrobas
23. Hermes and the brethren with them
24. Philologus
25. Julia
26. Nereus
27. Nereus’ sister
28. Olympas and all the saints with them

This list makes up a variety of names, geographies, genders, and positions (Romans, Greeks, Jews, men, women, families, apostles, servants, helpers, teachers, etc.)