

“The Fellowship Of Believers”
Romans 16:1-27
6/18/23
Message 30

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “The Fellowship Of Believers”

- **Coming to the End of Romans** 🙄

- It has been a great study
 - We started this book on October 23, 2022

- **Brief Review of the book**

- **1st Paul Has Been Talking about - The Doctrine of Soteriology (Salvation)**

- **Romans 1:16-17**

Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

- **2nd Romans 1-3:20 - All Have SINNED (Condemnation)**

- **Chapter 1**

- 1st To the Humanist

- They Suppress the Truth in Unrighteousness vs. 19-21

- They Claim to be WISE v. 22

- They Change the Glory v. 23

- So - God GAVE them up vs. 24-32
 - To Sexual Immorality
 - To Homosexuality
 - To a Debased Mind
 - Warning to those who support it

- **Chapter 2**

- 2nd The Moralist
 - “Good Ol Boys” / “Conservatives” (with Christ)
- 3rd The Religious Jews – Or “Religious Christians”
 - Say and Do the “Right” thing But their hearts are far from God

- **Chapter 3:1-20**

- SUMMED UP - ALL have SINNED ALL Are GUILTY

- **3rd Romans 3:21-5 – BUT NOW (Our Position In Christ – Justification)**

Romans 3:21 (NKJV)

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

- **The TRUE Sacrifice JESUS**

- ALL who put their faith in Jesus will be Saved
- At the Moment of Salvation
 - Justified = Just As If I Never Sinned

- *MacDonald’ “When God justifies the believing sinner, He not only acquits him from guilt but clothes him in His own righteousness and thus makes him absolutely fit for heaven. “Justification goes beyond acquittal to approval; beyond pardon to promotion.” Acquittal means only that a person is set free from a charge. Justification means that positive righteousness is imputed.”*

- Been Redeemed

- Purchased from the Slave market = Set Free

- Propitiation vs. Expiation

- Expiation = Debt Satisfied
 - Propitiation = Emotions Satisfied = Awakens God’s Love

- **Chapter 4-5**

- Gave us Abraham and David as Examples (Romans 4)

Romans 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- The 7 BLESSINGS of Justification (Romans 5:1-11)
 - Blessed With Peace With God’s v. 1
 - Blessed With Access To God v. 2a
 - Blessed To Have A Glorious Hope v. 2b
 - Blessed In Tribulations vs. 3-4
 - Blessed In God’s Love vs. 5-8
 - Blessed Because We Have Been Saved From Future Wrath vs. 9-10
 - Blessed In Reconciliation v. 11

- **4th Romans 6-7 - Our Position In Christ – Sanctification**

- **Chapter 6**

- A New Federal Head – ALL BY HIS GRACE
 - No Longer Under Adam
 - We are Under Christ
- Our Position In Christ – Sanctification
 - Freed From Our Sins
 - Freed From the POWER of SIN
 - Grace GREATER Than Our Sins

- **Chapter 7 – Thanks Be To God**

- Freed from the LAW
- Sanctification comes from the Holy Spirit
- NOT from Human efforts
- Verse 24 - he vents frustration

Romans 7:24 (NKJV)

24 *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

- Verse 25 - Is the answer, the solution –

Romans 7:25 (NKJV)

25 *I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

- **5th Chapter 8 - It's All about the Holy Spirit**

- **The Key Word – Spirit**

- The Spirit - Was mentioned only once in chapters 1–7
- Chapter 8 - Used 19 times
- Free to Live by the Spirit

▪ **NO CONDEMNATION – Romans 8:1-16**

Romans 8:1–2 (NKJV)

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

- The Amazing Promise to those IN Christ
- In Christ = Born Again (John 3)

▪ **From Groans to Glory! Romans 8:17-30**

- The Holy Spirit is With
- All things are working for our good

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

*28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

▪ **More Than Conquerors - Romans 8:31-39**

- In Christ Victorious

Romans 8:37–39 (NKJV)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*
39 *nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate
us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- **6th Chapter 9-11 - God is Not Finished With Israel**

- God's Faithfulness to Israel –
 - Show He will be faithful to us

- **Chapter 12 – Living Sacrifice**

- How than should we live

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present
your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable
service.*

- Don't be conformed to the world
- Be transformed By God's Word
- Be a PART of the Body
- Do you PART – Use your gifts
- Act Like Jesus

- **Chapter 13 – Good Citizens / Put On Christ**

- How we should live with the government
- Knowing the Time – Wake Up

- **Chapter 14-15 – Unity – The Law of Love**

- Major on the Majors not the minors
- Stop dividing over Non-Essentials

- **The Last Chapter we will see 3 wonderful truths about The Fellowship Of Believers**

- Paul's Loving Heart vs. 1-16
- Paul's Protective Heart vs. 17-20
- Paul's Contagious Heart vs. 21-27

Paul's Loving Heart vs. 1-16

- **First: A Recommendation of Phoebe vs. 1-2**

- **1st I commend to you Phoebe v. 1**

Romans 16:1–2 (NKJV)

1 *I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchre-a,*

2 *that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.*

- **Commend –**

- In the early church, there were no “Motel 6’s”
 - When you traveled, you needed to stay with friends.
 - It was a common practice for a church to write a letter of commendation for a person in the church
 - Letting people know that this person could be trusted!
- In this case Paul is also Giving his STAMP of Approval on Phoebe
 - As a fellow worker
 - Someone who needs to be listen to

- Someone who needs your support

- **Cen-chre-a –**

- Paul is writing to the Romans from Corinth.
- Cenchrea was the harbor on the east.

- **Phoebe –**

- We Don't know much about her
- All we know is that she the one who traveled from Corinth to Rome to bring Paul's letter.

- **Servant – Greek: Diakonos**

- One who executes the commands of another
- We are all called to serve one and another

- **Lesson – Women in the Church**

- A False Accusation from the world is -
 - The Bible, Church and Paul kept women DOWN
 - Did not respect Women
 - A Bunch of male chauvinist
- The REALITY
 - The Lord Jesus Elevated women
 - The Gospel Elevated Women
 - Paul Elevated Women

- Women can and do serve the Lord in MANY Different Ways
- NOTE – the One-way women are asked not to serve the Lord
 - Just can't be pastors and leaders saw it okay to have women involved in ministry (1 Tim. 2:8-13)

- **Second: Greetings vs. 3-5**

- **1st Priscilla and Aquila v. 3**

Romans 16:3 (NKJV)

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

- **Greet**

- GREET
 - People are important to Paul
 - He is going to go on about the how special people are in his life
 - People should be important to all of us
 - All people should be received

Romans 15:7 (NKJV)

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

- Lesson – “NOT this Church”
 - BUT At times the church can be a Cold Place
 - No connection
 - Let's continue to do a great job and connecting with all people

- **Priscilla and Aquila**

- This couple is mentioned in (Acts 18:2, 18:18 and 18:26)
 - They are friends & Helpers of Paul and Apollos.
 - Priscilla was the wife and Aquila was the husband.
 - The order of their names is usually given in this order.
- Brief HISTORY
 - At some point in their life, they moved to Rome and lived there for a while until Emperor Claudius - Kicked all the Jews out of Rome (Acts 18:2).
 - When they left Rome, they went to live in Corinth
 - Making a living as tentmakers, when they first met Paul.
 - They take an interest in Paul – later meet Apollos
 - Took Paul into their home, and they worked together as tentmakers. (Acts 18:3)
 - Paul eventually leaves Corinth, Aquila and Priscilla will accompany him to Ephesus
 - Paul leaves them there (Acts 18:18-19)
 - While they're in Ephesus
 - They'll meet a young preacher named Apollos, and take an interest in him.

- But they take him aside, train him, and he becomes a powerful witness. (Acts 18:26)
- Paul mentions that they have a church in their home there in Ephesus. (1Cor.16:19)
- Now, as Paul is writing to the church in Rome, apparently Aquila and Priscilla had returned to Rome – Another Home Church
- Fellow Workers –
 - A companion in work, fellow worker.
 - All the people who I have served the Lord shoulder to shoulder with are very dear to my heart
- **2nd Who Risked Their Own Lives v. 4**

Romans 16:4 (NKJV)

4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

- Probably at Corinth or Ephesus, but the details are not known.
- These people risked their lives for Paul!
- This will CREATE a Special Friendship

- **3rd The church that is in their house v. 5a**

Romans 16:5 (NKJV)

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. *Greet my beloved Ep-aene-tus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.*

- Another Greeting
 - People are important
- House church

- ANOTHER House Church for Priscilla and Aquila
 - Very Involved in doing the Lord's Work everywhere they went
- A Clue to how the early church was organized
 - Church buildings were unknown until the late second century.
 - There would be several "congregations" meeting in different houses!
 - Each house church probably had its own "pastor."
- Lesson – This is taking place in America
 - In Some communities there is a LACK of Solid Churches
 - Some have taken to have church in their own home inviting friends to watch solid pastors from another community
- **4th Ep-ae-ne-tus v. 5b**

Romans 16:5 (NKJV)

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Ep-ae-ne-tus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

- This man is of note because he was apparently among the very first converts of Achaia
 - (Where Corinth was and where Paul wrote the letter to the Romans).
- Ep-ae-ne-tus was also dear to Paul
 - Beloved isn't a term Paul used cheaply!

- **5th Many People who Are Special to Paul and God**

- **1st Mary - An-dro-ni-cus and Ju-nia v. 6-7**

Romans 16:6–7 (NKJV)

6 *Greet Mary, who labored much for us.*

7 *Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.*

- Mary
 - Labored HARD
 - Always a great thing to say about people
- An-dro-ni-cus and Ju-nia
 - These were apparently Jews (my kinsmen)
 - Were imprisoned for the sake of the gospel (my fellow prisoners).
 - They were well regarded among the apostles, having become Christians even before Paul did.

- **2nd Amplias:**

Romans 16:8 (NKJV)

8 *Greet Am-pli-as, my beloved in the Lord.*

- There is a tomb dating from the late first or early second century
- It is in the earliest Christian catacomb of Rome which bears the name AMPLIAS.
- Some suggest that this is the same person mentioned in Romans 16:8.

- **3rd Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus vs. 9-10**

Romans 16:9-10 (NKJV)

9 *Greet Ur-ba-nus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Sta-chys, my beloved.*

10 *Greet A-pel-les, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of A-ris-to-bu-lus.*

- The fact that the “household” of Aristobulus is greeted but not Aristobulus himself
 - Made Spurgeon think that Aristobulus was not converted but many in his household were.
 - It made Spurgeon think of the unconverted who live with believers in their house.
 - Aristobulus – may have been the brother of Herod Agrippa I, making him a close ally of the Emperor Claudius

▪ **4th Greet He-ro-dion vs. 11-13**

Romans 16:11–13 (NKJV)

11 *Greet He-ro-dion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Nar-cis-sus who are in the Lord.*

12 *Greet Try-phe-na and Try-pho-sa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Per-sis, who labored much in the Lord.*

13 *Greet Ru-fus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.*

- Herodion my countryman –
 - Possibly a relative of Paul's.
- Narcissus –
 - Scholars think that he was the personal secretary of Emperor Claudius.
- Tryphena and Tryphosa –
 - Probably sisters, possibly twins.

- Both their names come from the same root word, meaning “softness”
- Per-sis
 - Labored
 - Something Special to me
 - ALL THOSE who I have LABORED with the Lord
- Rufus
 - May be the son of Simon, who carried the cross for Jesus (Matt. 27:32).

▪ **5th Even More Greeting vs. 14-15**

Romans 16:14-16 (NKJV)

14 Greet A-syn-cri-tus, Phle-gon, Her-mas, Pat-ro-bas, Her-mes, and the brethren who are with them.

15 Greet Phi-lol-ogus and Julia, Ne-re-us and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

- Asyncritus... Phlegon... Patrobas... Hermes... Nereus
 - Of the rest of these names
 - Noting their labor, his special regard for them (beloved), their standing in the Lord (approved in Christ... in the Lord... chosen in the Lord).
- **6th Lesson x 2**
 - **1st Example – If I was to Write a Letter**
 - To My Precious Bride
 - No word can express the love in my heart

- What a journey we have been on since 1986
- Serving JESUS Hand in Hand together
- What a special bond
- My old friend Mike Murphy
 - Who invited me to CCA
 - Where I Understood the Gospel
 - Fully Committed my life to Jesus
- My old friend James Otto Jr.
 - Who encouraged me to continue to grow as a disciple and to answer the call to ministry
- To our first Pastor John Sutter
 - Who taught us the Word of God
 - Did our baptisms
 - Did our Pre-Marriage class
- To our Senior Pastor Greg Denham
 - Who did way more then we have time for this morning
 - Taught us the Word of God
 - Discipled us
 - Helped us with the call to the ministry
 - Took us on staff
 - Taught me so many life lesson in the ministry

- To Pastor Paul Cross
 - Who took me under his wing in the ministry
 - Modeled Love & Patient with me
- To Harry Roach
 - No words to describe the impact this man had on my life
- To Pastor Arron Newman
 - A TRUE FRIEND
 - Follow Soldier
- To my mentors
 - Pastor Chuck Smith
 - Pastor Damian Kyle
 - Pastor Mike Warren
- To my incredible pastoral friends
 - Pastor Nick
 - Pastor Bob
 - Pastor Mike
 - Pastor Arron
- To ALL the Precious Saints in Auburn CA
 - We have walk through some incredible times together

- Your love and support
- Your faithfulness to God
- To ALL the Precious Saints at Calvary CP
 - We ARE walking through some incredible times together
 - Your love and support
 - Your faithfulness to God
- 2nd Greet one another with a holy kiss v. 16

Romans 16:16 (NKJV)

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

- I am good with Hand Shakes and Hugs 😊

Paul's Protective Heart vs. 17-20

• First: Note those who cause divisions and offenses v. 17

Romans 16:17 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

- **1st NOTE those who Cause Division and Offenses v. 17**
 - 1st What this means
 - Both Doctrinal Falsehood and Unrighteous Practices
 - (Matt. 24:24; Acts 20:27–32; Gal. 1:6–8; Eph. 4:14)
 - We are to NOTE those who are FALSE Teachers
 - We are to NOTE those who stir up trouble
 - Unrighteous Practices

- Anything that can cause division
 - Gossip – Slander
 - Promoting SIN
- False Teachers
 - Teaching that does not line up with the Word of God
- **2nd NOTED (marked) AVOIDED**
 - **NOTE –**
 - Means to MARK & AVOID
 - Stay away from
 - Not my words – BUT God’s WORD
 - This means, they are NAMED
 - **Reason**
 - Truth without Unity leads to pride
 - Unity without Truth leads to a departure from the true gospel itself.
 - Each of these must be guarded against
 - **The CHURCH must do this duty – there is no excuses**
 - For the church to be healthy we must stand up against those
 - Who would pervert the Gospel

- Who would undermine the health of a local church
- The Bible has a lot of very harsh words for those who are false teachers
 - Phil 3 – Dogs, Mutilators, Enemies of the cross
 - Turn to Jude – 5-11

• **Second: They DO NOT SERVE THE LORD v. 18**

Romans 16:18 (NKJV)

18 *For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

- **1st DO NOT SERVE THE LORD**
 - **Their Own Belly**
 - Driven by self-interest and self-gratification
 - Often seen in their pretentious, extravagant, and immoral lifestyles
 - **Smooth words and flattering speech**
 - Some people are just gifted with commination
 - Sadly - Some will use this gift to hurt many people for their own gain
 - Build up a crowd – for their own belly
 - **The warning is necessary**
 - Because these dividers and deceivers do not announce themselves.

- They use smooth words and flattering speech and always target the simple – usually those who are young in the faith.

- **Deceive the hearts of the simple:**

- The SIMPLE
 - Those who follow
 - EMOTIONS more than FACTS
 - They don't take the time to look at what the Bible says

- **Lesson 1 - My Precious Brothers and Sisters**

- BE Bereans
 - Content NOT Flash
 - LISTEN TO EVERY WORD USED
- Illustration
 - It is possible to preach TECHNICAL Truth of a Bible passage
 - BUT fail to teach the correct Application or Warning
 - I heard a pastor about a year ago
 - For 42 min I heard everything that appealed to the flesh
 - He must have mentioned the HOPE a thousand times
 - Said the Gospel was

- Good News
- Shows God's Love
- God Rescue Plan
- BUT here is the point
 - HE never once said in the message why we needed to be rescued
 - It was only in his prayer did he finally mention SIN
 - You See it is possible to "Teach" the word BUT only focus on the positives and fail to teach the proper application & warnings
- This is Watering Down the Words of TRUTH
 - They will be held responsible
- **Lesson 2 – False Teachers**
 - **We Must be Discerning**
 - Not Every False Teachers is like
 - Jim Jones
 - David Koresh
 - Spurgeon Quote
 - **Show Pic**
 - *Spurgeon "Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right."*

- **False Teaching in the modern Church**

- So MUCH it can't be talked about in one meeting
- The one that is very popular
 - The Subtle Focus on SELF / ME
 - Man-centered gospel and the true gospel?
- There are countless man-centered "gospels" today.
 - Such "gospels" say things like, "God wants to make you rich and prosperous in this life," or "God wants to heal you of every physical and emotional ailment," or "God wants to provide for whatever needs you feel you have."
 - A focus on how to be
 - A better parent
 - A Better Husband
 - A Better...
 - Look none of these things are wrong in themselves
 - BUT our focus needs to be on Jesus
 - He will then make us what HE wants us to be
- So - Take NOTE
 - A man-centered gospel defines our lives in terms of what we "need" or want most.

- The biblical gospel rightly recognizes that none of us fundamentally live to ourselves, but to God (Rom. 14:7-9).
- A man-centered gospel considers our needs and desires to be our most fundamental problems.
- The true gospel recognizes that to sin against God and face his wrath is the most fundamental problem imaginable.
- A man-centered gospel is based on our desires, our wants, our needs.
- The biblical gospel looks to the Bible to define our problems and God's solution: the sin-bearing death and life-giving resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The true gospel puts God at the center of the message—and the center of our lives, and the center of the entire universe—because that's the truth.
- We live and die in a God-centered universe.

- **Show a series of Quotes**

- **Show Pics**

- **Third: Your obedience has become known to all v. 19-20**

Romans 16:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.*

20 *And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

- **1st For your obedience has become known to all v. 19a**

Romans 16:19 (NKJV)

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

- They are already dealing with these dividers and deceivers situations well
 - Paul is glad they are
 - BUT they must remain diligent against the attacks of the dividers and the deceivers.
- **2nd Be wise in what is good v. 19b**

Romans 16:19 (NKJV)

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

- This is the best defense against dividers and deceivers.
- Be Wise – Stay in God’s WORD – ALL OF IT
- Stay Simple in regards to EVIL – don’t dig into their wick ways too deep – Just deep enough to now we MUST stay away
- **3rd The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly:**

Romans 16:20 (NKJV)

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- I LOVE THIS
 - ONE day and SOON God is going to CRUSH the Evil in this world

Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Paul's Contagious Heart vs. 21-27

• First: Greeting From Paul's Friend vs. 21-24

Romans 16:21–24 (NKJV)

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lu-ci-us, Jason, and So-sip-a-ter, my countrymen, greet you.

22 I, Ter-tius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.

23 Gai-us, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. E-ras-tus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quar-tus, a brother.

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

○ **1st Timothy**

- Being one of Paul's closest and most trusted associates.

- A Son in the Faith

○ **2nd I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle:**

- Tertius was Paul's writer as the apostle dictated the letter.

- This was Paul's normal practice in writing letters to churches, but this is the only letter where Paul's secretary is mentioned by name.

• Second: Conclusion to the letter: praise to God vs. 25-27

Romans 16:25–27 (NKJV)

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—

27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

○ **1st Now to Him who is able to Establish you**

- With all the dangers facing the Romans – and every church –
- Paul fittingly concludes by commending them to Him who is able to establish you.
- True Preaching of Christ will produce stability – Water Down Teaching produces nothing

Jude 24 (NKJV)

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

○ **2nd According to the revelation of the mystery:**

- Paul means this as the whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.
- Though God announced much of the plan previously through prophecy, its final outworking wasn't evident until revealed by God through Jesus.

○ **3rd To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever:**

- God alone is the source and display of pure wisdom, and to Him belongs glory through Jesus Christ, our Mediator, forever.

Closing

- My we be encouraged by God Love –
- May His Love and Grace – encourage us to stand strong in these last days