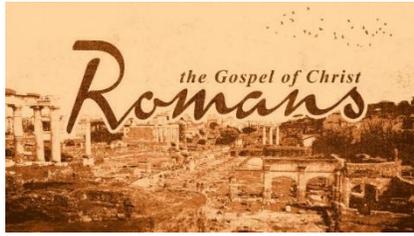


## Chapter 15 / 16



How does Chapter 15 continue the discussion of caring for one another – especially how the strong have an obligation?

Like an older sibling told to watch out for the younger, do we hear God's answer to Cain's feeble "Am I my brother's keeper?"

15:5 God gives endurance and encouragement (so necessary in life!). How is unity also a gift from God?

15:7 "One another" may refer to Christians who disagree on certain disputable matters. However, looking at the next verses, what groups seem to be Paul's focus (again)?

15:23 Why is there "no more place for [Paul] to work"? (see 20-21)

Paul plans to visit Rome on his way to where?

Where must Paul go first (and why?)

Did Paul fulfil his plans?

Maybe not – He was arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21)

Maybe so – Clement of Rome writes "Paul reached the limits of the West". Perhaps his arrest in Jerusalem was a later visit.

Chapter 16 may seem like "just a list of people" and so we could skip it. But look closer...

Why would God include (and cause to be preserved for us) this list of greetings?

### 1) Some interesting connections? Including...

16:1-2 – Phoebe – What seems to be Phoebe's connection with this letter? What word is used to describe Phoebe in verse 1?

16:3 – Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18)

16:10 – the household of Aristobulus – Aristobulus himself is not "greeted" so is he not a believer? Is this the household of the brother of Herod Agrippa (who came to Rome from Judea)

16:13 – Rufus (Mark 15:21?)

Why include these names in Mark 15:21 unless they are known. To what group of Christians was the Gospel of Mark most likely written?

### 2) Jews and Gentiles / Men and Women

The theme of Gentiles and Jews together in Christ is lived out in this list of greetings.

Also, there are at least 7 women mentioned, some very prominently. How does this list – especially taken in its cultural context – provide an answer to those today who claim the Bible is sexist?

### 3) Helpers

Paul, arguably the greatest apostle, thanks all these people as fellow helpers in Christ. What does that teach us about the Christian life?

### 4) These are just normal people... right!

If a visiting missionary were to send a letter including a specific list of thanks, who from our congregation would be included?

How does the close of the teaching (15:30-33) and the close of the letter (16:25-27) echo the "theme verse" of 1:1-17?