

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"Galaxy of Saints" (2)
Romans 16:3-16

REVIEW AND MORE

1. This last chapter is filled full with challenge and sincerity. Names, homes, activities crowd the verses. We can't afford to miss a syllable.
2. Phebe is someone special. Her role as a sister, servant (deaconess), and encourager is recorded for all time (vv. 1, 2).
3. Then there were those who were helpers (vv. 3, 9), others who labored in the Lord (6, 12). Two are listed who actually at one time shielded Paul from death (v. 4).
4. What a calling--to be a Christian. Far from the loose use of that term, the Bible shows a Christian as one with a calling which is high (Phil. 3:14), holy (2 Tim. 1:9), and heavenly (Heb. 3:1). Oh, to realize this!
5. Now, consider other saints and their valor:-
 1. BELOVED ONES vv. 5, 8, 9, 12

Four times this word is used in this chapter. Three times the personal pronoun my is employed showing special affection by Paul. The remaining relates to the whole church. It's a word of affection to be restrictively employed among believers. Found over 60 times in the N.T. Used of our Lord (Mt. 3:17). Note that v. 8 adds in the Lord to qualify the term.

- 2, KINSMAN vv. 7, 11, 21

The same term is used of fellow Jews (9:3). This is probably the significance. Here, however, they may have been Paul's relatives. If so, it is a wonderful insight into his family (cf. Acts 23:16:22). Paul may also mention Jews to point Romans to their Jewish faith heritage.

3. IN THE LORD vv. 7, 13

Three special phrases merit comment here. If the term kinsman refers to Paul's relatives, it is interesting that two are noted as having believed before Paul (v. 7). The perfect tense shows they are still in Christ (eternal security). They may have been goads to provoke him to believe (Acts 26:14). Many can testify to being saved first in a family. The second word notes God's elective choice (v. 13). It is difficult for us who are so man-centered to view salvation from God's viewpoint. Praise His Name He chose us for in our rebelliousness we never would have chosen Him (Jn 15:16). It is all "in the Lord." No wonder salvation is of grace (Eph.2:8,9).

Epenetus is noted as the first fruit of an entire province, Asia (v. 5). Blessed privilege.

4. FELLOW PRISONER v. 7

This word is only used a few times in the N.T. (here; Col. 4:10; Philemon 23). Literally it means a captive of war. Paul was imprisoned several times (2 Cor. 11:23). Apparently these brethren shared this experience with Paul. It cost something to believe then! It may have been for this reason or many others that these men were considered of note among the apostles. Their joint suffering with Paul made them unusual.

5. APPROVED v. 10

This is a noteworthy comment. The term approved relates to proving someone with a view to approving (cf. 1 Cor. 9:27). Appelles was apparently put to a severe test. As a consequence, he came through triumphantly. Glory to God. Oh, to be approved in Christ.

THINK ABOUT IT

Go over the names. Check them out. Paul had them down pat. He knew these people. There are outstanding features about them all. He even was mothered by one's mother (v. 13). Stop to think in your own life about those you know in the Lord. Write out your own list and their significant contribution in your own life and that of the church of Christ. Amen.