

Why does Paul commend women, and in particular Phoebe?

Application

Should we (and do we) greet believers in the Lord differently than we greet non-believers?

How consistently do we recognize and affirm each other's 'hard work' in the Lord? Individually? Corporately?

Paul knew the importance of relationships. How important are relationships to us? Do we actively pursue them or do we passively wait for others to connect with us?

How do we respond when there is a request for 'help' [use of our resources] to ...

... visiting believers who have come here?

... believers abroad whose needs we're made aware of through Emails/letters/media?

Paul knew the value of encouragement. Heb. 3:12-13 commands us to encourage one another daily so we don't have a sinful, unbelieving heart. Who did you encourage today?

May 22/22 follow up

"A Valuable Lesson from 'Greetings' "

Romans 16

"Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings" [16:16]

While the apostle Paul was well known and received a lot of attention, he always worked with others. People were his life. He witnessed to them, led them to Christ and worked with as many as he could to fulfil God's purposes. So he mentions many names in his letters. Lists of names in the Bible, sadly do not excite us too much. We can't pronounce them, we don't know most of them make it seem irrelevant to us – but these were relevant to the original recipients. That's the key, however, to understanding the bible – what did these words mean to the original audience to whom it was written to? Not until we can answer the interpretation question can we apply it to ourselves. There is much here if we want to do a little digging!

Observations (What does it say?)

When dealing with lists there are 2 main things to look for: 1) What's repeated a lot; 2) What's unique to the list.

A. Repetition:

1) What two things are repeated most here?

The word "G_____ " and people's n_____

What does that word mean?

'aspazomai' – [66 times in NT; 18 here]

w_____, e_____, r_____

Is there any hint as to how people were to greet one another?

16:16 "Greet one another with a _____."

[1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thes. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14*]

Are there other passages that help us understand this?

Luke 7:45; Luke 22:47, 48

2) Who is expressing greetings to whom?

P _____ is telling the _____ in Rome to greet these other _____ that Paul knew

3) What do we know about these people?

Similarities

v.3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 "in _____"

v.2, 3, 6, 9, 12 "h _____", "fellow _____",
"worked _____"

v.5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 "_____ friend"; "r _____";
"I _____"

v.4, 5, 15, 16 "c _____"

v.4, 7, 10 "_____ their lives"; fellow p _____";
"t _____ and a _____"

Most of these names are also G _____ names

Differences

There are m _____ and w _____ listed

There are some f _____ names and
u _____ names

v.3 "Priscilla and Aquila"

Acts 18

v. 13 "Rufus"

Mark 15:21

B. Unique:

While there is much repetition, there is something unique that stands out? What stands out from the greetings?

vv.1-3 Not a greeting but a c _____

Who is commended? P _____

What do we know her? Why does Paul commend her especially?

v.1 "Our _____"

"a s _____ of the church in Cenchrea"

v.3 "she has been a great h _____ to many including me"

Words "servant" and "help"

"Servant" = diakonos; general word for servant but also used for title, position, person of influence

"help" = prostatis – to assist someone f _____

How did Paul tell the Romans to welcome her?

v.2 "receive her in a way _____ of the saints"

v.3 "give her any _____ she may need"

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

Why did Paul want to send these greetings to these specific Roman believers? (15:14-33)

Why does Paul mention these people's ministry involvements?