

## GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

### Greek Word Study Romans 16

1. **διάκονος (diakonos) - "servant" or "minister" (Romans 16:1)**

The Greek term διάκονος refers to a servant or minister who carries out the commands of another, particularly a master, implying active service and duty. In Romans 16:1, Paul commends Phoebe as a διάκονος of the church at Cenchreae, highlighting her role in serving the church community. This designation indicates a position of responsibility and trust, with Phoebe's service exemplifying the dedication expected of believers, underscoring the significance of service in the Christian community.

2. **προσδέχομαι (prosdéchomai) - "to welcome" or "to receive" (Romans 16:2)**

The term προσδέχομαι means to receive or accept favorably, to welcome with open arms and a positive attitude. In Romans 16:2, Paul urges the Roman believers to προσδέχομαι Phoebe in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints. This underscores the importance of hospitality and acceptance within Christian fellowship, calling the community to embrace one another with warmth and support, reflecting the inclusive love of Christ.

3. **συνεργός (synergos) - "fellow worker" or "co-worker" (Romans 16:3, 9, 21)**

συνεργός means a fellow worker or laborer, someone who collaborates in work or mission. Paul uses συνεργός to describe Priscilla and Aquila (v. 3), Urbanus (v. 9), and Timothy (v. 21). This term highlights the collaborative nature of ministry in the early church. By calling these individuals συνεργοί, Paul acknowledges their significant contributions and partnership in spreading the Gospel, emphasizing the communal and cooperative aspect of Christian mission.

4. **ἀσπάζομαι (aspazomai) - "to greet" or "to salute" (Romans 16:3-16)**

ἀσπάζομαι means to greet, salute, or embrace, conveying a sense of acknowledgment and affection. Paul uses ἀσπάζομαι repeatedly in Romans 16 to send greetings to various individuals in the Roman church, highlighting the personal connections and mutual respect among early Christians. This frequent use underscores the importance of acknowledging and honoring each member of the community, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

5. **ἐκκλησία (ekklesia) - "church" or "assembly" (Romans 16:1, 4, 5, 16, 23)**

The term ἐκκλησία refers to an assembly or congregation, commonly translated as "church" in the New Testament. In Romans 16, Paul mentions the ἐκκλησία in various contexts, such as the church at Cenchreae (v. 1), the church in Priscilla and Aquila's house (v. 5), and the churches of Christ sending greetings (v. 16). Paul emphasizes the collective identity of believers as the body of Christ, portraying the ἐκκλησία as a supportive, interconnected network of communities united in faith and mission.

6. **χάρις (charis) - "grace" (Romans 16:20, 24)**

χάρις means grace, favor, or kindness, a central theological term in Paul's writings denoting God's unmerited favor toward sinners. In Romans 16:20 and 24, Paul concludes his greetings and instructions with a benediction of χάρις. This invocation encapsulates the essence of the Gospel message—God's gracious gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. By emphasizing χάρις, Paul reminds believers of the foundational grace that sustains and empowers the Christian life, encouraging them to remain steadfast in faith and love.