

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

Study Outline for Romans 16:1-27

Introduction: Greetings and Final Instructions

Romans 16 concludes Paul's letter to the Romans with personal greetings to various believers in Rome, underscoring the importance of recognizing and valuing each member of the Christian community. Paul also provides final instructions and warnings, highlighting the necessity of unity, vigilance against false teachings, and reliance on God's power to strengthen the church.

Purpose

Paul's intent in Romans 16 is to express personal greetings, show appreciation for fellow workers in the faith, and provide final instructions and warnings to the Roman Christians. He aims to strengthen the community by highlighting the significance of each member's contribution and emphasizing the importance of maintaining doctrinal purity and unity in the face of challenges.

Themes

- **Acknowledging Fellow Workers:** Paul's extensive list of greetings shows the diversity and unity of the early church.
- **Unity and Avoiding Divisions:** Final instructions emphasize the need for vigilance against those who cause divisions.
- **Commending Faithful Service:** Recognition of individuals who have labored diligently for the gospel.
- **God's Power and Wisdom:** The doxology at the end of the chapter highlights God's ability to establish believers according to the gospel.

Objective

To recognize the importance of each member within the body of Christ, understand the need for unity and vigilance against divisive influences, and appreciate the power of God in establishing and strengthening the church.

Outline

I. Acknowledging Fellow Workers (Romans 16:1-16)

Paul begins by greeting many individuals, emphasizing the significance of each person's contribution to the ministry. He commends Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae, and asks the Roman Christians to assist her. Prisca and Aquila, fellow workers who risked their lives for Paul, are acknowledged, along with various other believers like Epaenetus, Mary, Andronicus, and Junia. This

extensive list of greetings highlights the diverse and interconnected nature of the early Christian community.

II. Unity and Avoiding Divisions (Romans 16:17-20)

Paul provides final exhortations, stressing the importance of unity and caution against those who cause divisions. He urges the Roman Christians to avoid individuals who create obstacles contrary to the teaching they have learned, as these are deceivers who serve their own interests. Paul commends their obedience and encourages them to be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil, assuring them that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under their feet, highlighting the ultimate victory over evil.

III. Greetings from Paul's Companions (Romans 16:21-23)

Paul extends greetings from his companions, again showing the interconnectedness of the early Christian communities. Timothy, Paul's close associate, and other notable companions like Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater send their greetings. Tertius, the scribe who wrote down the letter, Gaius, Paul's host, Erastus, the city's director of public works, and Quartus, a brother in Christ, also extend their greetings, reflecting the support network surrounding Paul in support of the ministry.

IV. Doxology: Praise to God's Wisdom and Power (Romans 16:25-27)

Paul concludes with a doxology, praising God's ability to establish believers and the wisdom revealed through the gospel. He acknowledges it is God who is able to establish believers according to his gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ. The mystery kept hidden for long ages past is now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith. Paul ends with a doxology, giving glory to God through Jesus Christ forever, emphasizing the eternal nature of God's wisdom and plan.