

Introduction:**I. His Reason For Writing - In Closing** (like most preachers keeps on going)

- A. Typical Paul closing - similar to other letters yet there are some things added that we will note.
 - 1. His Travel Plans vs 14-29
 - 2. His Request for prayer 30-32
 - 3. Prayer for peace 33
 - 4. Remember his associates 16:1-2
 - 5. Greet each other 16:3-15
- B. The Travel Plans which started in 1:1-15
 - 1. He opens with "dear brothers and sisters" Paul's way of transitioning to new topic.
 - 2. He commends them for their faith.
 - a) Yet is bold enough to 'remind' them of what they have received in Christ Jesus. He exercises the right to address them based on the faith they have in common the faith he preaches to Gentiles everywhere.
 - b) He also appeals to them through the grace given to him by Christ Jesus - that of apostle. Because that apostolic call was to the Gentiles they fall within the parameters of his scope of influence.
 - c) His priestly ministry vs 16 to present them as an acceptable offering to God.
 - d) He glories not in what he has done but in what Christ in the Gentiles.
 - e) His ambition has always been to preach to those who have not heard.
 - f) He claims his visit has been delayed because that is what he has been doing. vs 22
 - 3. Looking Ahead
 - a) I have finished there and plan now to go to Spain.
 - b) To Jerusalem first 15:25-29
 - c) 30-33 Pray for me! And may God give us all peace, His peace.
 - (1) Pray because you love me. Agape, through the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) Pray for my protection from the Judaizers.
 - (3) Pray that the believers receive the offering from Macedonia.
 - (4) When that is successfully accomplished I will come to you with a joyful heart and we will encourage one another.
 - (5) May God give you peace. "Amen." This closes the Paul's prayer and sets up the transition to chapter 16.

II. On behalf of my friends. 16:1-16

- A. Edifies his friends
 - 1. Paul exhorts the Roman Church to greet one another especially the 26 friends he mentions, to a church that he has never been to.
 - 2. To be specific 26 individuals, two "families," and three "house churches."
 - 3. The majority of these names are Gentiles, of those women, many were also former slaves.
- B. Extends greeting to his friends.
 - 1. Paul begins 16 sentences in this passage with the 2nd person plural "Greet".

2. His longest greeting is to Priscilla and Aquilla whom ministered with him in Corinth. *"There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome."* (Acts 18:2, NLT) Not only were they former ministry companions but they were also tent makers with the apostle Paul.
- C. Affirms the church. 16:16
1. *"Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings."* (Romans 16:16, NLT)
 - a) Greet is in the imperative form. It is a command. Typical of the ending of Paul's letters.
 - b) One thing that makes this section stand out is that all the churches send their greetings to the Roman Christians. Chapter 16 can be considered boring by most accounts but what it powerfully instructs us in is that Paul was not a 'lone ranger' in the preaching of the Gospel to nations.
 - c) We need to note that 9 women are mentioned in this passage five who are ministers.

III. Final Instruction: 17-20 three parts

- A. Warning against false teachers vv 17-20
1. Paul does not speak of this topic, false teachers, at all during his letter until now.
 2. He does not call them by name but rather teaches what to look for in discerning them: "they are divisive, self-centered, persuasive, teach what is contrary to the gospel, and must therefore be avoided at all costs." Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 929). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. This is the action of 'dis-unity.'
 3. It is also typical of Paul to close his letters with such warning.
- B. A promise of deliverance vs 20a
1. The God of peace will soon crush Satan, Lake of Fire crushing!
- C. A blessing of grace vs 20b

IV. Doxology 25-27

- A. Paul ends his letter with a praise to God for His wisdom in making a way for all men into salvation's history.
- B. He again gives praise for God making a way for the Gentile to come into the Kingdom. This is what Paul has given his life for.
- C. Last verse! All glory be to the only wise God, who through Jesus Christ has made a way for all who believe! Amen!