

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

19. Paul's Greetings



Introduction

Finally we have come to the last chapter of the book of Romans. If you were writing a letter how would you end it? Possibly in the same way that Paul did, who sent greetings from those who were with him, and to those he was writing to. He also gives a last word of warning and then rounds off his letter by summarizing the main reason for writing this letter.

Scripture Reading: Romans 16:1-16

1. Paul's personal greetings v1-16, 21-24

- ⊗ Although Paul had never been to Rome, he knew some of the believers there. Priscilla and Aquila had been with him before, and three of them were his own relatives. Read through these verses again and share your thoughts about Paul and the people he mentions. Romans 16:1-16
- ⊗ Paul goes on to acknowledge those who have helped him. What can you learn about those listed in verses 21-23?

(Timothy was a fellow worker, Tertius had written the letter for him, and Gaius had shown him hospitality.)

Reality Check

Do I regularly thank and appreciate those who help me? Some people think you should not praise people too much or they will become proud. What can you learn from Paul?

2. Paul's warning to the believers v17-20

- ⊗ Who did Paul warn these Christians to watch out for? V17

(They had to be careful of people who caused divisions and taught things that were different. In fact Paul tells them to keep away from such people.)

- ⊗ Those who speak well and have 'charisma' easily influence other Christians. How can we really know who is serving Jesus Christ? Romans 15:18, Matthew 7:15-20

(Although people may speak well, you need to look at the fruit in their lives. If they are truly following Jesus then their ministry will bring unity and freedom to people's lives.)

- ⊗ What do you think it means when it says that these 'smooth talkers' are serving their own appetites? Romans 15:18 Are you ever in danger of doing this?

(Such people are really serving God with impure motives. It may be to have power and control over others, or so they can impress others and look important.)

3. Paul's conclusion v25-27

- ☉ Paul reminds the readers about his main reason for writing this letter. What was it? V25-26
Compare with Romans 1:16-17.
(Paul explains the meaning of the gospel. This is that all men are made righteous before God through Jesus Christ, and this includes both Jew and Gentile.)
- ☉ What is God's intention in revealing the gospel to mankind? What does this mean to us?
(So that all nations might believe and obey him.)

Conclusion

What an amazing journey it has been as we have gone through the book of Romans! We have seen how all men and women have sinned and can only be reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. We have seen how the gospel can transform our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit when we believe. The first nine chapters teach us these wonderful truths, and then Paul addresses his own people, the Jews, showing that God has not forgotten them. Finally in the last five chapters he addresses practical issues and shows us how to live this new life in Christ. As the Apostle Paul says in this final chapter; may each one of us be established in this gospel and may all nations believe and obey him. Amen!

