


The background is a warm, yellowish-orange watercolor wash. Overlaid on this are various line drawings of Roman artifacts and architecture. In the top left is a large amphora with a Greek key pattern. To its right is a standing male figure in a toga. Further right is a scroll with Latin text. On the far right is a section of a Roman wall or archway. In the center is a classical temple with six columns. Below the amphora is a profile bust of a bearded man with curly hair. To the right of the temple is another section of a Roman wall. In the bottom left is a Roman helmet with a crest. To its right is another scroll with Latin text. Below the helmet is a large Roman helmet with a crest. To the right of the helmet is a profile bust of a bearded man with curly hair. In the bottom right is a standing male figure in a toga. At the bottom center is a classical temple with six columns. At the bottom right is a large, ornate Roman archway.

ROMANS

FROM NOW ON
WEEK TWENTY- SEVEN



**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY AND
PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM,
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW
WITH HOPE BY THE POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

ROMANS 15:13 NIV

**SCAN TO LET US
KNOW YOU ARE
PARTICIPATING**



WEEK TWENTY-SEVEN

In week twenty-seven (our final week of studying the book of Romans), we will study Romans 16:1-27. Paul will say his longest greeting of all his letters and list many people who he wants to acknowledge in the Roman churches. He will then send one final set of instructions to conclude this grand letter.

SERMON NOTES

1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. 2 Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me. 3 Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. 4 In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. 5 Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. 6 Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus. 11 Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus. 12 Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me. "Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

14 Give my greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. 15 Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers[e] who meet with them. 16 Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings. 17 And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. 18 Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. 19 But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. 21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews. 22 I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers. 23 Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus. 25 Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. 26 But now as the prophets[h] foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. 27 All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

ROMANS WEEK 27 DAY 1

READ: ROMANS 16:1-2

List the characteristics Paul says about Phoebe



What a gift Phoebe was to the Romans and has been to us these last 27 weeks of Bible study. He regards her and introduces her in the most elaborate way found in any other letter. Paul was extremely honored by, trusted and respected her, so we should be equally impressed. Without Phoebe we may not have Romans in the way we do today. Paul says many things about her, she was sent to deliver, this very likely meant she would read aloud and be able to answer questions about the letter. He calls her a “deacon” or “servant” meaning she held some sort of caring and leadership role in the church at Cenchrea. He also uses the word, *prostotes* which means benefactress. We can assume she was in Rome, on business for other things possibly, but God used her to share this message with the churches in Rome.

What surprises you or impresses the most about what Paul says about Phoebe?




What is also notable is what Paul is asking the Romans to do for Phoebe. The NLT says, “help her in whatever she needs.” This would have most definitely included basic needs (food, shelter, water) as well as financial needs that she would have in her time in Rome. Paul wants to make sure the Romans not only know why she is there, but assure she is taken care of while delivering (and most likely digesting) the letter with the Christians in Rome.

I like to imagine what it might have been like for Phoebe. While Paul’s introduction does give us more information than we know about most of the Christians in the first and second century, it still leaves wide gaps. Did she stand in front of a crowd and read it from front to back? How many house churches did she visit? What kind of questions did the Christians in Rome have? Was she nervous? How did it go over?

IMAGINE YOURSELF IN PHOEBE’S SITUATION.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL AND HOW DO YOU
THINK SHE FELT?





ALL GLORY TO THE
ONLY WISE GOD,
THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST, FOREVER.

AMEN.
ROMANS 15:27 NLT

ROMANS WEEK 27 DAY 2

READ: ROMANS 16:3-16

Count all of the people/households mentioned in these verses. Why do you think Paul mentions all of these people? Are there any names you recognize?



The long list of people Paul mentions tells us a lot about this letter and the churches in Rome. First, it allows us to know this was an actual letter written to actual people. Paul had real people, churches and households in mind when writing these words down. Though we understand Paul knows at least some of these people (Acts mentions Priscilla and Aquila), we do not know if he knew every single one of them because he had never physically been to Rome. It's possible that Paul may have just heard the good things people were doing in Rome and wanted to commend them or it's also possible Paul listed every single Christian he knew in Rome to acknowledge their fight for Christ among Roman citizens. What we see is an extremely diverse community of believers. There are different races (both Jews and Gentiles), genders (with a significant number of women mentioned), and social classes.

LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE ABOUT WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT EACH INDIVIDUAL LISTED. HOW SHOULD THE DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE PAUL MENTIONS INFORM THE CHURCH TODAY?



We do not know a ton about these people, as most of them are only mentioned here in the last chapter of Romans. Here is what we do know:

Priscilla and Aquila- a Jewish couple, co-working with Paul. They are mentioned in 18 and we know they traveled many places for the Gospel. Paul tells us they “risked their lives” for him, showing their dedication to Christ.

Epenetus- Paul knows him personally. He mentions he was the first convert in the Roman province of Asia which is significant.

Mary- a very common Jewish name, one who worked hard for the Romans

Andronicus and Junia- two Jews, probably the most interesting and commented on, other than Priscilla and Aquila. Paul calls them both apostles possibly signifying some sort of significant leadership. Junia is the only woman in the New Testament to be referred in this regard. Paul says they knew Christ before him and had suffered with him in prison.

Ampliatius and Urbanus- most likely a slave or freedman

Stachys- possibly of Greek origin

Apelles and the household of Aristobulus- we know almost nothing about Apelles, but can assume Aristobulus was not a believer, but believers were in his house

Herodion- either a blood- relative of Paul’s, but likely a fellow Jew

Household of Narcissus- a household likely head by a freedman

Tryphena and Tryphosa- women who were likely slaves or freedwomen

Rufus- believed to be the son of Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross with Jesus part of the way to Golgotha

Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas- little known, Hermas was likely a slave or freedman

Philologus, Julia, Nereus, his sister, and Olympas- Philologus, Julia were likely husband and wife and Nereus and his sister were their children, Olympas was probably just the only name from that household church Paul knew.

ROMANS WEEK 27 DAY 3

READ: ROMANS 16:17-20

Yesterday we learned a lot about many different people, write down one new thing you learned about that group of people here.



Paul now turns to talk about false teachers. We know this was either a favorite topic of Paul's or simply a very large threat as Paul mentions it in many letters to other churches (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Corinthians, and Galatians). We can also tell that he took this seriously because it is one of the final instructions he gives the Romans.

What does Paul say about false teachers and why do you think it seems to be such an issue Paul speaks about?



The word “urge” is translated from the word parakaleō, which means “watch out for.” It is likely that false teachers have not yet arrived to Rome, but that Paul was getting ahead of what might come. He thought it so dangerous for there to be people who would use speech to confuse or “deceive innocent people” (NLT). Paul commends the Romans and tells them he is proud of them but wants them to be on guard.

This is how The Message translates verses 19-20,

And so while there has never been any question about your honesty in these matters—I couldn’t be more proud of you!—I want you also to be smart, making sure every “good” thing is the real thing. Don’t be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus!

WHERE DO YOU SEE FALSE TEACHING TODAY? HOW CAN WE WATCH OUT FOR IT? HOW DO YOU, INSTEAD “ENJOY THE BEST OF JESUS”?



ROMANS WEEK 27 DAY 4

READ: ROMANS 16:21-27

Now Paul reminds the Romans of other people saying hello. How do you think this impacted the Romans, knowing there were others supporting them from afar?

Paul's last words speak volumes and summarizes his whole message to the Romans. See how The Message translates verses 25-26,

All of our praise rises to the One who is strong enough to make you strong, exactly as preached in Jesus Christ, precisely as revealed in the mystery kept secret for so long but now an open book through the prophetic Scriptures. All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God, who got all this started, down to the final detail. All our praise is focused through Jesus on this incomparably wise God! Yes!

How do these words impact you? How do they echo the entire message of the book of Romans?

Douglas J Moo says Paul “clearly intended to stimulate the Romans Christians praise of God by reminding them of what he has told them of God’s wonderful plan for their salvation in Jesus Christ.”

Tim Keller says in summary, “This reminds us of the Gospel is not only the entry point into Christian life; it is also the way we continue in, grown in and enjoy life with Christ. Paul has shown us in Romans, how the Gospel will not only save us, but also how it then changes us. If we believe the Gospel, God is working powerfully through it in us. We need never move away from it.”

HOW HAS ROMANS ENCOURAGED YOU IN
THIS WAY?



ROMANS WEEK 27 DAY 5

27 full weeks of Bible study on Paul's longest letter. This is day 135 and if you have stuck in it all this way, I pray you know this book as deeply as I do. When you think of Romans as a whole, what is one verse or theme that comes to mind?



To jog your memory of the entire book of Romans, I've listed each section heading as titled in the NIV. Look through this list or your own Bible, and circle one or two that you want to reflect on moving forward.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Paul's Longing to Visit Rome (1:8-17) | Paul's Anguish Over Israel (9:1-5) |
| God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity (1:18-32) | God's Sovereign Choice (9:6-29) |
| God's Righteous Judgement (2:1-16) | Israel's Unbelief (9:30-10:21) |
| The Jews and the Law (2:17-29) | The Remnant of Israel (11:1-10) |
| God's Faithfulness (3:1-8) | Ingrafted Branches (11:11-24) |
| No One is Righteous (3:9-20) | All Israel Will Be Saved (11:25-32) |
| Righteousness Through Faith (3:21-31) | Doxology (11:33-36) |
| Abraham Justified by Faith (4:1-25) | A Living Sacrifice (12:1-2) |
| Peace and Hopoe (5:1-11) | Humble Service in the Body of Christ (12:3-8) |
| Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ (5:12-20) | Love in Action (12:9-21) |
| Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (6:1-14) | Submission to Governing Authorities (13:1-7) |
| Slaves to Righteousness (6:15-23) | Love Fulfills the Law (13:8-10) |
| Released From the Law, Bound to Christ (7:1-6) | The Day Is Near (13:11-14) |
| The Law and Sin (7:7-25) | The Weak and the Strong (14:1-15:13) |
| Life Through the Spirit (8:1-17) | Paul the Minister to the Gentiles (15:14-22) |
| Present Suffering and Future Glory (8:18-30) | Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (15:23-33) |
| More Than Conquerors (8:31-39) | Personal Greetings (16:1-27) |

Look over the group of scripture(s) that you circled. Write down one or two key verses of those passages.

MY PRAYER IS THAT YOU UNDERSTAND ROMANS
A LITTLE MORE AND HAVE EXPERIENCED A NEW
OR DIFFERENT PART OF GOD BECAUSE OF IT.

AS WE END OUR STUDY WE WILL END IN
PRAYER, AS PAUL DID MANY TIMES THROUGH
THIS LETTER. PRAY THAT THE LORD NEVER
LETS YOU FORGET HOW AND WHAT YOU HAVE
LEARNED THROUGH THE BOOK OF ROMANS AND
PRAY FOR THOSE SPECIFIC VERSES TO REIGN
TRUE IN YOUR LIFE EVERY SINGLE DAY.

REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

WHAT VERSES (OR VERSE) HAVE STUCK OUT TO
YOU THE MOST THIS WEEK?



WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING
YOU TO DO OR BELIEVE THIS WEEK?





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