

# The Letter of St. Paul to the **ROMANS**

**XIII**

## **OPENING WORSHIP**

Read together **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10** for your opening devotion. The Apostle Paul was deeply grateful for his fellow Christians in every location. That appreciation is reflected in his words here to the Thessalonians. He sees every one of them as a trophy of God's grace, and he appreciates his partnership with them in the gospel.

## **INTRODUCTION**

With Romans 16 we'll conclude our study. In this final chapter Paul personally greets many of his fellow Christians by name and gives thanks for his special relationship with them. He also leaves the Romans with words of warning and encouragement that we do well to take heart today.

## **NAMES OF GOD'S ELECT**

**Read Romans 16:1-16.** We might easily gloss over this section of Scripture as merely a list of personal greetings. But it is much more than that. What is the significance of each of these names written in Paul's letter?

What do you know about Priscilla and Aquila from other New Testament references? (Acts 18:2,3; Acts 18:18; Acts 18:26; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19.)

Are there any other names that jump out at you or any of Paul's comments that grab your attention?

## **WATCH OUT!**

**Read Romans 16:17-20.** If someone were to ask you, "What do you like most about your church, how would you respond?" Take three minutes to consider this question with the people around you.

Jesus warns us to "Watch out for false prophets." He says, "They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them." What false doctrines do you see widely taught today?

How do false teachers operate? Why is this significant?

What are Paul's instructions to Christians regarding those who teach false doctrines?

A given teaching cannot be both true and false. Two different, conflicting teachings about the same issue cannot both be true. Why is this such an important reality to remember? (See Jesus' words in **John 8:43-47**.)

What temptations might we struggle with when we encounter false teaching in the church?

We can easily become frustrated by the lies that swirl all around us, both inside and outside of the church. What encouragement does Paul offer to the Romans in the face of such frustration (v. 20)?

**Read Romans 16:21-27.** What do you know about some of the people mentioned in this section? What insights do these names give you into Paul's work and the spread of the gospel?

Paul appears to have used a scribe (*amanuensis*) to draft this letter to the Romans. (Other epistles of Paul make reference to a similar practice.) The name of Paul's scribe is listed here as . . .

Just to emphasize: What is the "mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known"? (See **Ephesians 3:6**.)

"Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

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## **VERSE TO REMEMBER**

**Romans 16:17**

*Watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*