

Study 16

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISION

Romans 16

In The Group

- ◆ When *you* do nothing, what do you do?
- ◆ If you could make one improvement to our city what would it be? (You can't pick one that someone else in the group has already said.)
- ◆ If you could take one "Learning Pill" (so that you would instantly know something without having studied it) what would it be and why?

The Epistle to the Romans explains how to be at peace with God from now and into eternity. You don't become a Christian (a follower of Christ) to receive salvation - you become a Christian because you received salvation! And when you did, you became a part of a family. You now have new brothers and sisters who care for you and for whom you can care for in return.

1. What does Romans 16:1 tell us about how the early Church regarded women?

2. Based on what Paul says about how the church in Rome should treat Phoebe when she visits, how should we treat visitors to our church - and especially how should we treat visiting ministers? (Romans 16:2)

3. From Romans 16:3-5, what does this tell us about how women contributed to the early church (and where did some churches meet)?

Reading Romans 16:4-15 we should see that women played a significant role in the early church. We should also see that the early church often met in homes (as well as public spaces where it wasn't outlawed). We should note that God honours those who serve Him - and serving in a local church is honouring God!

4. Who are we to watch out for in our churches and why based on Romans 16:17? How does Romans 16:18 give us some clues for how to also spot them?

5. Why did Paul want the believers in Rome to be particularly careful and wise? (Romans 16:19)

Satan's strategy against believers included condemnation. While the Temple existed in Jerusalem, and therefore daily sacrifices still being offered (even after the death of Christ), Satan still brought a kind of condemnation to people who could not keep the Law. In just a few short years after Paul wrote this epistle, the Temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans and Old Covenant animal sacrifices would for ever be brought to an end. In the months leading up to this it appears that Satan went on a rampage trying to destroy Christians. Paul prophetically told the Romans that Satan was soon about to be "crushed under their feet" (Romans 16:20).

6. Based on Romans 16:25, what two things are able to strengthen the believer?

7. What is the goal of God's command to all mankind within the Gospel? (Rom 16:26)

8. According to Romans 16:27, who is the chief agent of God being glorified and why is he?

THE ROMANS ROAD

Here is a simple outline of the Epistle to the Romans which you should memorise and use in your personal evangelism. You might like to write this in the margin of your Bible, or use the numbers with the next reference to help you find them. Imagine if someone you had shared your testimony with asked you how they too could become a Christian, this “Romans Road” would be a great introduction and foundation for them to receive Christ as their Saviour.

(i) Who needs to be saved? (Rom. 3:10, 23)

(ii) What are the eternal wages of sin? (Rom. 6:23a)

(iii) What is the free gift that God offers to people? (Rom. 6:23b)

(iv) When did God love us and how do we know this? (Rom. 5:8)

(v) How do we receive the gift of salvation that God offers us? (Rom. 10:9-10, 17)

9. What have you learned about the Gospel from this study of Romans?

10. How has God spoken to you through this Study series?
