

Devotional Questions – Romans 16:1-27

1. *Why does Paul send so many greetings?*
2. *Since Paul has never been to Rome how does he know so many people?*
3. *How does Paul describe Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)?*
4. *How does Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-4)?*
5. *How does Paul describe those who cause division and offences (Romans 16:18)?*
6. *How do the false teachers work (Romans 16:17-18)?*
7. *How should the church treat false teachers (Romans 16:19-20)?*
8. *What is the ‘mystery’ that Paul refers to (Romans 16:25)?*
9. *How is the ‘mystery’ now revealed (Romans 16:26)?*
10. *What is the objective of the gospel (Romans 16:26)?*
11. *What encouragements are there in the doxology (Romans 16:27)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 16:1-27, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 589-610 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1508-1509 for detailed comment and www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Romans 16 – Summary Thoughts for additional remarks.

1. Why does Paul send so many greetings?

Paul had many in his heart, as he had for the Philippians and as should be the heart of today's believer towards those for whom he prays and to whom he ministers. ***“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace”*** Philippians 1:6-7.

2. Since Paul has never been to Rome how does he know so many people?

Paul had saved family members and co-labouring friends in Rome:

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus” Romans 16:3.

“Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us” Romans 16:6.

“Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen...” Romans 16:7.

“Salute Herodion my kinsman...” Romans 16:11.

“Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine” Romans 16:13.

Those listed above who were close to Paul could have informed him about the others to whom he sends greetings and salutations. The lesson for today's believer is to apply Ephesians 6:18-19 with respect to both prayer and prayer support ***“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”***

3. How does Paul describe Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)?

Paul describes Phebe as a servant of her local church and ***“...a succourer of many...”*** Romans 16:2. To succour is to help:

“And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succour Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men” 2 Samuel 8:5.

“And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more” 1 Chronicles 19:19.

Phebe's ministry points to the kind of ministry that today's believer should follow according to 1 Thessalonians 5:14 ***“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.”***

4. How does Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-4)?

Romans 16:3-4 state ***“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks...”*** They were like Onesiphorus of whom Paul states ***“The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day...”*** 2 Timothy 1:16-18.

Association with Paul could be risky. ***“Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me”*** Romans 16:7. Paul nevertheless has this exhortation for Timothy and today's believer. ***“Be not thou”***

therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” 2 Timothy 1:8.

5. How does Paul describe those who cause division and offences (Romans 16:18)?

Romans 16:18 states **“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”** Paul describes them as self-serving and soul-sabotaging by means of **“lips...speaking guile”** Psalm 34:13. Note King David’s description of **“...the bloody and deceitful man”** Psalm 5:6 and of how to be delivered from him. **“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords. Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved”** Psalm 55:21-22.

See attached study **The 1611 Holy Bible Cleanses Fundamental Evangelical Modern Version Falsehood** pp 25-27 with inserted graphic for an example of how **“good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”**

6. How do the false teachers work (Romans 16:17-18)?

See *Question 5* with respect to false teachers and Romans 16:18. Romans 16:17 warns against **“...divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned...”** This doctrine includes for example **“...the gospel of Christ...the power of God unto salvation”** Romans 1:16 today’s believer thereby **“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”** Romans 3:24. Paul therefore declares as is the case for today’s believer **“As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed”** Galatians 1:9.

7. How should the church treat false teachers (Romans 16:19-20)?

They should be treated as King David showed by example. **“Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God”** 1 Samuel 17:36. As Paul states **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”** Ephesians 5:11.

8. What is the ‘mystery’ that Paul refers to (Romans 16:25)?

This is **“...the body of Christ...”** Romans 7:4 today’s believer’s eternal security of which Paul states **“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery...Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel...This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church”** Ephesians 3:3, 5-6, 5:32.

9. How is the ‘mystery’ now revealed (Romans 16:26)?

See *Question 8* and note that **“...the scriptures of the prophets...”** Romans 16:26 did point to the church e.g. Song of Solomon 6:10 **“Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?”**

10. What is the objective of the gospel (Romans 16:26)?

That is for **“all nations...the obedience of faith”** Romans 16:26 which is **“...salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”** 2 Timothy 3:15, which is why Paul states as applies now for today’s believer **“For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth”** Acts 13:47.

11. What encouragements are there in the doxology (Romans 16:27)

Romans 16:27 states **“To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”** The main encouragement for this writer is in the **“Amen.”** **“And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too”** 1 Kings 1:36.

The 1611 Holy Bible Cleanses Fundamental Evangelical Modern Version Falsehood pp 25-27
www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php

Isaiah 59:19, Jeremiah 15:16, "a standard," "Thy words...thy word

Note that for today's a.m. message:

Jeremiah 15:16 "Thy **words** were found, and I did eat them; and thy **word** was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts" was quoted, although from the NKJV.

The significance of Jeremiah 15:16 is that the **word** of God, singular, is the sum total of the **words** of God, plural. That is basic but that was not stated at any time this a.m.

Note that the church version 1984 and 2011 NIVs state "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty." "thy **word**" has been changed to "they" so that you won't get the essential connection between "Thy **words**" and "thy **word**."

Praise God for that? "I trow not" Luke 17:9.

Likewise see [Matthew 17:21](#), [18:11](#), [23:14](#), [Mark 7:16](#), [9:44](#), [46](#), [11:26](#), [15:28](#), [Luke 17:36](#), [23:17](#), [John 5:4](#), [Acts 8:37](#), [15:34](#), [24:7](#), [28:29](#), [Romans 16:24](#), [1 John 5:7](#), 17 whole verses of scripture.

Are we to say Praise God the King James translators included those verses but also Praise God the NIV translators cut them out while keeping the same verse-numbering system and did so in line with Rome and Watchtower?

"I trow not" Luke 17:9.

Btw, you may have observed the NIVs' "the message" instead of the AV1611's "the word" in Acts 17:11 this a.m. The two readings are not the same.

Concerning other points made this a.m.:

'Only the originals were the pure, perfect, inspired word of God' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Multiple versions are needed' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Multiple versions must be sifted through to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Decide for yourself which version to use on the basis of whatever you think is best for you out of all the versions available to you' or a comment to that effect. No scripture.

'Go back to the Hebrew and the Greek to get what God really said' or a comment to that effect. No scripture – and no identification of which Hebrew or which Greek to go back to and no explanation of why God was evidently unable to preserve His words perfectly from the perfect originals to what is extant today, in spite of Psalm 12:6-7 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

This is what Gail Riplinger had to say in her book *Which Bible is God's Word?* 2007 Edition p 116 about the multiple-whatever-suits-you-DIY-version approach.

"It is scandalous for rich Americans to have ten versions of the bible, instead of just one. Four million dollars was invested in the New King James Version; subsequent to that; several million dollars was spent on advertising campaigns. Many tribes and peoples around the world have no King James Bible type bibles at all; the Albanian bible was destroyed during the communist regime. Many of the tribes in New Guinea do not have a bible in their

language. But, these countries have no money to pay the publishers. The publishers are not interested in giving these people bibles; they are just interested in making bibles that can produce a profit for their operation."

Do you want to be counted with that crowd at "the judgment seat of Christ" Romans 14:10?

The Lord's evaluation in sum is "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

It may be added that the Greek LXX was never used by believers in the 1st century. Parts of it were being put together in about the 2nd century. The actual LXX was a 3rd century document no longer extant but it was the 5th column of bible corrupter Alexandrian Origen's 6 column Hexapla. Today's LXX compiled by Sir Lancelot Brenton is the 4th century A.D. Vaticanus manuscript supplemented by the 5th century A.D. Alexandrinus manuscript, both Egyptian i.e. of the world. The LXX also includes the Apocrypha as part of the OT scriptures, that no 1st century believer would do.

www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ 'O Biblios' – The Book pp 5-6]

The end result is that the individual is left with being his own final authority on what God said according to the mind-set "I will be like the most High" Isaiah 14:14. That is not a good situation. "no king in Israel" applies equally to "the word of a king" Ecclesiastes 8:4 not in a church.

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" Judges 21:25.

Concerning Spurgeon, it is well-known that he made statements for and against the AV1611 [see **1 John 3:1, alluded to at the start of the service this a.m.**]. Towards the end of his life, however, in his final address to his students, he made this statement. Note that Spurgeon refers to "this Book" and quotes from that Book, not any other. You get one guess what Book that is, not two. Note also that most departures from the AV1611 Text including those of the NKJV are in line with modern Catholic and Watchtower versions. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ What is the Bible? – AV1611 Overview.

www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ O Biblios Overview p 6]

See *The Greatest Fight in the World* www.spurgeon.org/misc/gfw.htm.

"It is sadly common among ministers to add or subtract a word from the passage, or in some way debase the language of sacred writ. Our reverence for the Great Author of Scripture should forbid all mauling of His Words.

"No alteration of Scripture can by any possibility be an improvement. Today it is still the self-same mighty Word of God that it was in the hands of our Lord Jesus.

"If this Book be not infallible, where shall we find infallibility? We have given up the Pope, for he has blundered often and terrible, but we shall not set up instead of him a horde of little popelings, fresh from college.

*"Are these correctors of Scripture infallible? Is it certain that our Bibles are not right, but that the critics must be so? But where shall infallibility be found? The depth saith, 'It is not in me' yet those who have no depth at all would have us imagine that it is in them; or else by perpetual change they hope to hit upon it! [Gail Riplinger in *New Age Bible Versions* p 583 states "The NIV translators say, Preface vii, "...the work of translation is never wholly finished." The New Age boasts of their plans for a new bible from the "archaeological archives." The stage is set for the Antichrist to pull back the veil and launch HIS FINAL VERSION of the story."]*

"We shall gradually be so bedoubted and becriticized that only a few...will know what is Bible and what is not, and they will dictate to the rest of us. I have no more faith in their mercy than in their accuracy.

“They will rob us of all that we hold most dear, and glory in the cruel deed. This same ‘reign of terror’ we will not endure, for we still believe that God reveals Himself rather to babes than to the wise and prudent. We do not despise learning, but we will never say of culture or criticism, ‘These be thy gods, O Israel.’

“To those who belittle inspiration and inerrancy we will give place by subjection, no, not for an hour!”

It is simple to resolve the apparent inconsistency of Spurgeon’s statements on the scriptures. You only have to ask, was he speaking by “the Spirit of God” 1 Corinthians 3:16 or by “a spirit of an unclean devil” Luke 4:33 (all of which are fundamentalists and more knowledgeable on the scriptures than most saved folks)?

I guess for the above statement of Spurgeon’s most fundamentalists would choose the latter. Strange business...

Concerning lost souls on the mission field etc., it is regrettable that while multiple versions were being pushed in the West, Rome has taken control of Bible translation on the mission field. See www.chick.com/catalog/bibleversions.asp *Why They Changed the Bible* by Bro. David Daniels.

Concerning the mission field, this site is also instructive.

See:

purebiblepress.com/bible/
purebiblepress.com/bible/mission.html etc.

[See also:

www.baptistchurchgoa.org/ Grace & Truth Baptist Church, Goa, India, where under the leadership of King James Bible Baptist Pastor Lordson Roch ***“a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries”*** 1 Corinthians 16:9]

Note that Isaiah 59:19 has been totally distorted in the 1984 church version and 2011 NIVs so that no-one has any standard from the Lord. Praise God for that? “I trow not” Luke 17:9.

On the question of will the Lord be angry with the multiple-whatever-suits-you-DIY-version approach when He comes back? I believe that He will be.

Note this statement from www.chick.com/catalog/books/0220.asp.

Bible translators, all over the world, are making Bibles that they think are only for Protestant and Baptist believers. But they’ve been sold a lie! Actually, they have been tricked into **also** making false bibles for *someone else*.

Most don’t know that Christian translators are being trapped into helping create a One-World Bible! And all the translation work is paid for by contributions from Bible believers like you.

And **Who** is that “someone,” and **what do they believe?** They will tell you, ***in their own words!***

Remember Paul’s admonition. **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”** Ephesians 5:11.

