

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

RLJ-1602

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JUNE 4, 2017

PART 30: REJECT TROUBLEMAKERS

The last chapter of the letter to the Romans also contains a number of subjects which are not related to one another. There is a wealth of information that helps us to understand Christian doctrine as set forth by the apostle Paul.

PHEBE

The first thing we learn is that there was a church in the city of Cenchrea, located in Greece, south of Corinth. There was a woman in that congregation named Phebe. She is not mentioned in rest of the New Testament. The title bestowed upon her by Paul was “deaconess,” which is the same Greek root word as for “deacon.” The King James Bible translates this Greek word as “servant.” This tells us that the office of a deacon had expanded to also include women. **Romans 16:1; Acts 6:1-6**

Some Christians think that Paul was biased against women but these verses serve to prove that he worked well with women such as Phebe and Priscilla. **Romans 16:2-3**

AQUILA AND PRICILLA

There was a Jewish couple named Aquila and Pricilla. Aquila had been born and raised in the province of Pontus, located on the south shore of the Black Sea in what today is Turkey. They moved to Rome since Pontus was a Roman province, but when Emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.) expelled all Jews from Rome, Aquila and Pricilla ended up in the Greek city of Corinth where they met Paul. Since all three were tentmakers, they started a business in order to make a living. **Romans 16:3-4; Acts 18:1-3, 24-28**

Aquila and Pricilla later moved back to Rome when Claudius died and started a church in their home, which was part of a network of other house churches in Rome.

Most likely many of the members of this house church had met Paul and he wanted to send personal greetings to them. Examining these names indicates that Paul had made many personal friends and these people loved him. **Romans 16:5-16**

REJECT TROUBLEMAKERS

Many years earlier Satan infiltrated the Israelites and polluted them with the ungodly writings of the Kabbalah and the Talmud. He did not waste any time when Jesus began His earthly ministry and the Devil was able to take control of one of the apostles. **Luke 22:1-6**

Satan also tried to bring the apostle Peter into his fold. For three days after the crucifixion, it looked like Peter had been captured, but Jesus removed him from the clutches of Satan. **Matthew 16:21-23; Luke 22:31-32, 55-62; Mark 16:1-7**

Paul is blunt that people who cause division or bring in false doctrine are to be completely shunned. **Romans 16:17-20**

This is in harmony with what Paul wrote to Timothy. **1 Timothy 4:1-7; 2 Timothy 3:1-10**



In his letter to Titus, Paul exposed false teaching by Jews. **Titus 1:10-16**

The apostle Peter was also concerned what would happen once the apostles passed away and the second generation of leaders took over. **2 Peter 2:1-10**

The apostle John was the last of the original apostles and he too issued a strong warning. **2 John 6-11**

Jesus also issued a strong warning in the final days before He was crucified. **Matthew 24:24**

THE FINAL FAREWELL

When Paul closes his letter to the Romans, he provides us with personal information that is very interesting. Paul's team members at that time consisted of Timothy, Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, all of Jewish descent.

When a person reads the letter to the Romans, there is no indication this letter was dictated until the end. The man that wrote it down was Tertius, who also sent his personal greetings to the church in Rome.

Paul does not indicate which city he was writing from, but Bible scholars believe that Paul was in Corinth when he wrote the letter to the Romans. He was staying at the home of Gaius, who also hosted the church in Corinth. It is interesting that the chief operating officer of the city of Corinth, Erastus, was a believer in Christ and part of the church. **Romans 16:21-24**

A FINAL EXHORTATION

The last two verses of this chapter are an exhortation to the readers that the power of God is more than able to meet any need they might have. **verses 25-27**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?