

A. SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES TO LIFT SOMEONE'S FAITH IS A GREETING (:1-16)

1. (:1-2) Phoebe - A Servant = Deaconess • Not "title" • "waiter" • Serves In A Practical Way
 - a. Pheobe apparently carried the letter to Rome
 - b. First part of ch. 16 is a letter of recommendation
 - 1) that she be received & assisted, just as she had assisted so many
2. (:3-5a) Priscilla & Aquila
 - a. First met in Corinth (Acts 18)
 - b. (:4) Risked lives (necks) = re. execution for their faith
 - c. (:5a) House church (home group)
3. (:5b-15) Notice All The Names
 - a. (:5b) Epaeetus - first convert in (Greece)
 - b. (:6) Mary???
 - c. (:7) Andronicus & Junia(s?) - Jews, prisoners, apostles, saved prior to Paul's conversion
 - d. (:8) Amplias = large (ample)
 - e. (:9) Urbanus = of the city (urban) & Stachys
 - f. (:10) Apelles = called, household of Aristobulus - first/best council (his servants)
 - g. (:11) Herodian - heroic, a Jew, household of Narcissus
 - h. (:12) Tryphena & Tryphosa - (delicate) - twins, Persis = from Persia
 - i. (:13) Rufus & his Mom - who was like a Mother to Paul
 - j. (:14-15) etc...
4. Notice What Is Revealed In The Names
 - a. Jews, Romans, slaves, aristocrats
 - b. Lotsa friends (high places & low places) for a place he's never been
5. Notice All The Women
 - a. 10 of 27 named
 - b. Women have always been active & important to the church
 - c. The Bible is real clear that Men & Women are different by design, and each is better suited to different roles.
 - 1) different does not mean one is more than or less than the other
 - d. In all truth, the best women's movement is the Jesus movement: 'cuz Jesus liberates women from the second class citizenship that was ascribed them by male dominated human society
 - 1) if the world/America had simply listened to Jesus, there never would have been a women's suffrage movement or women's liberation movement, 'cuz in Jesus we're all equal - and we see each other as equals
 - 2) and that would apply to ethnic issues, as well as gender issues
6. (:16) Holy Kiss = Hug

B. OTHER TIMES FAITH IS LIFTED BY MEANS OF A WARNING (:17-20)

1. (:17) What To Watch Out For
 - a. those who cause divisions & offenses
 - 1) divisions: that's easy - those who would try to divide the believers
 - 2) offenses = obstacles / *skandalon* (scandals)
 - b. These divisions & obstacles come from teaching that is "contrary to the doctrine which you learned"
 - 1) sound doctrine leads to unity (Eph. 4:11-13)
 - 2) scandalous doctrine, doctrine that causes people to stumble, leads to division
 - c. i.e. Requirements other than grace
2. (:17d) What To Do
 - a. avoid / keep away - vs. argue/correct (e.g.. J.Ws)
3. Why

- a. Their motives are wrong (:18)
 - 1) belly = based on “hollow”: empty heart
 - 2) they haven’t believed / yielded to the power of the simple gospel & try to fill their won emptiness w/a spin/twist on the truth - and drag you along with them
 - b. Certainly there’s a place for honest debate in seeking out the truth. But if that leads to division on the church, you can be sure that someone has stepped away from Jesus w/wrong motives
4. **The Right Response (19:b) Be Wise/innocent**
- a. Wise in what is good = know the word
 - b. Simple concerning evil = unmixed/pure: don’t study sin/heresy
 - c. (:20) God truth will always crush the enemy’s lies (Genesis 3:15)

C. MORE GREETINGS (:20B-23)

- 1. (:20) E.g.. 17-19 (second Ending)
- 2. (:22-23) Re. Tertius & Quartus:
- 3. (:24) Another Ending

D. FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT (:25-27)

- 1. (:25) **The Power (dunamis) Of The Gospel (proclamation Of J.C.)**
 - a. The power of the Gospel is the power of God (1:16a)
 - b. God uses the gospel to make you firm (established)
 - 1) to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix
 - 2) established: as His own / in His love
- 2. (:26) **The Purpose Of The Gospel**
 - a. Believe Him (Jesus) • believe what? = salvation by grace thru faith, not works
 - b. Obey Him • obey what? = salvation by grace thru faith, not works