

For your obedience is known to all so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. (Romans 16:19)

I. More Than Roll Call

- a. Do you remember when your teacher called the roll before class? Paul called the roll after class.
- b. This chapter gives the reader great insight that ministry involves relationships.
- c. What is the significance of this roll call of people? How did Paul know all of these people since he never went to the churches in Rome?
- d. This list presents a sociological make-up of the church. There are singles, married, women, men, slaves, freed persons, Jews, Gentiles and parental relations listed. It is more than a list.
- e. It shows that Paul was "friend maker" as well as a soul winner.
- f. The people that God uses the most are people who can make friends and who are friendly.
- g. Paul listed 26 people by name; two unnamed saints; he greeted several churches meeting in homes; and he had nine saints with him when he wrote the letter from Corinth.
- h. Unfortunately, we do not have detailed stories behind each name listed.
 1. **Phoebe** (*protectress*), a valued member of church at Cenchrea. She carried the letter to the saints at Rome. She is described as a deaconess and a helper to Paul and other Christians.
 2. **Priscilla** and Aquila – where and when they risked their lives for Paul, we do not know. At the time this writing, they were in Rome and a church met in their house. (*Corinth, Ephesus, Rome*)
 3. Epenetus, Ampliatus, Stachys, Persis – these persons are called "beloved." Epenetus was the first follower of Jesus from the province of Asia (Thessalonika).
 4. **Mary** – a single woman described only as a hard worker.
 5. Urbanus – a fellow worker
 6. Apelles - a tried and true veteran in following Christ.
 7. Andronicus, **Junia** (fellow prisoners) and Herodion – described as "kinsmen" which could mean they were Paul's cousins. They were messengers of the Lord or leaders in the church.
 8. The families of Aristobulus and Narcissus – greetings to these households not to the persons
 9. **Tryphena** (*delicate*) and **Tryphosa** (*dainty*) – diligent women in service to the Lord
 10. Rufus – a good choice by the Master. Rufus' mother had been like a mother to Paul. (v.13)
 11. Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and families.
 12. Philologus, **Julia**, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints who live with them.
 13. Timothy – Paul's "son of faith" and labored with Paul in many difficult places. (Phil 2:19-24)
 14. Lucius, Jason and Sosipater (cousins) – fellow workers and Jews.
 15. Tertius – the secretary who wrote the letter as Paul dictated.
 16. Gaius – the man Paul lived with while he ministered in Corinth.
 17. Erastus – held a high office in Corinth as city treasurer.
 18. Quartus – a good friend
- i. *We learn from this list that Paul was not a "lone-ranger." He depended on the help of others.
- j. *Women played an important role. Ministry in the early church was never confined to men.

II. Ministry Instructions

- a. Keep an open and on false teachers, those who cause divisions and stumbling blocks against the teaching that you learned. They are smooth talkers, flatterers and deceivers. (vv.17-18)
- b. Be wise to what is good. Don't be simple-minded and swallow whatever is offered." They live in perilous

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. ***I thank my God for all my remembrance of you.*** Write a name _____, _____ (Philippians 1:3; Romans 1:8-9)
- b. Paul wrote *Romans* so that Christians could explain God's plan of salvation so they would be established in the faith.
- c. *Romans* reflects Paul's special ministry to the Gentiles and how inclusive Christ message is.
- d. The "mystery" (v.25) has to do with God's plan of uniting believing Jews and Gentiles in the Body of Christ (the church).
- e. *Romans* reminds us that God's Word must be made known if people are to be drawn to Christ.
- f. The names represent more than a list. They represent a journey that took Paul deep into faith. These names reminded him of the grace, love and transformational power of God.
- g. If Paul's list is this long, how long would Jesus' list be concerning those who have helped and or now helping Him in ministry. Are you on that list of being a fellow worker? Are you identified by Christ as His beloved?