

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

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Personal Greetings!

Romans 16:1-27

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¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;

²that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

³Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; ⁵also *greet* the church that is in their house.

(Romans 16:1-5a)

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Phoebe*

- she likely carried Paul's letter to the believers in Rome
- she was likely an unmarried woman of financial means

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Phoebe*

1. She was a fellow-believer ("sister")
 - she was worthy of a "Christian" welcome and practical assistance

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Phoebe*

2. She was a servant (deacon?) of her local church
 - she was likely recognized in some semi-official way for her service to the church

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Phoebe*

3. She was a patron/helper of many, including Paul
 - she was one came to the aid of others by providing housing and financial support

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Prisca & Aquila*

- ❖ They were fellow-workers of Paul “in Christ Jesus”
 - they served together as a married couple
 - they were “tentmakers” (not financially supported)
 - they practiced generous hospitality
 - they risked their lives for Paul in gospel-service

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Commending Sacrificial Service

➤ *Lessons*

1. The indispensable value of women in gospel-ministry
2. The unique advantage of single women in serving the church (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:34-35)
3. The need for risk-taking, husband and wife tentmakers in the cause of the gospel

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