**Romans Series October 15, 2023**

**The Significance of Long Forgotten Christians- Romans 16:1-16**

Phoebe Romans 16:1-2

* Sister
  + Not **a blood relative** of Paul
  + A fellow Christ follower that was committed to Christ because she was “commended” or highly recommended
* “Servant of the church”
  + Following the example of Christ (John 13:3-17)
  + We don’t know exactly what she did for the church, yet she was obviously a model of self-sacrifice for the body of believers there
* “Helper of many” / “helper of myself”
  + Acted in a support role, providing that which was needed
  + Perhaps a woman who had financial backing or wealth so that she could give to meet the needs of others
* Most likely the letter carrier from Paul to Rome
* Some ancient manuscripts of Romans have at the bottom of the letter, “The letter was written to the Romans from Corinth through Phoebe.”

Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila Romans 16:3-5a

* Husband and wife team (Acts 18:1-2)
* **Tentmakers** with Paul (Acts 18:3)
* Fellow teachers with Paul in at least 3 cities
  + Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus
* “My fellow workers in Christ Jesus”
  + Served as Paul’s ambassadors
  + Paul left them behind in Ephesus to keep working with the church there (Acts 18:19)
* Put their lives in danger for Paul and for the continuing proclamation of the Gospel

Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila (continued)

* Led a house church in their own home
  + “greet the church that is in their house”
  + Many of the churches in the 1st century were following this model

Epaenetus Romans 16:5b

* Dear and **close friend** of Paul – “beloved”
* Came to Christ early in Paul’s ministry

Mary of Rome Romans 16:6

* One of at least 7 women in the New Testament with this name
* She was a **hard worker** for both the Lord and the church at Rome

Andronicus and Junias Romans 16:7

* Shared in the **Jewish heritage** with Paul
* Imprisoned along with Paul for Christ
* Reputation was “outstanding” and well known to the apostles
* Had been Christians for over 25 years by the time Paul wrote Romans

Legacy of Romans 16:1-16

* 24 named people
* 2 un-named people
* 6 groups of people, mostly meeting in house churches

What is my legacy?

* Will future generations remember you?
* What will your descendants think of your life, regardless of how many years you lived?
  + Are you intentionally working to leave a legacy of Christ that will be your most significant memory for future generations?

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