

**INTRODUCTION - ROMANS 16:1-27**

How does one conclude such a theologically and practically rich volume such as Romans? By continuing to address both theological and practical matters, of course. Paul notes the contributions and companionship of several persons who helped him share the Gospel, he warns of threats and prescribes ways to handle them, and ends as the letter began: with an exhortation to God, the Gospel, and the glory to be gained through faithful obedience to Christ.

**Keep up:** complete N.T. Wright, *Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups*, p. 88-91.

**Faithful partnerships advance the Gospel and give way to God's glory.**

*Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ... (16:25a, NRSV)*

**Romans 16:1-16 → A commendable fellowship.**

*Advancing the Gospel and ensuring its promises can be achieved through shared service.*

- Supported by **service** and **sacrifice** (1-4).
- Sustained by **willing workers** (3-15).
- Salutations for **friends in the faith** (16, 21-23).

**Romans 16:17-20 → Importance of recognizing and resisting division.**

*Advancing the Gospel requires awareness and avoidance of people who create or stir discord.*

- vs. 17: The Greek term that gives us “avoid them” has a literal meaning of “turn away from them; deviate from them.”
- To maintain unity in the church, separation may become necessary.
- Personal responsibility for church unity means that we are to be “innocent, pure, simple, not mixed in/with” evil.
- Believers who resist division exemplify what “the God of peace” will ultimately do to Satan.

**Romans 16:24 → The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. (from NKJV)**

*How can we account for the fact that this verse does not appear in some Greek manuscripts?*

- As copies of the letter were made and distributed over time, this verse may have gradually disappeared from some copies.
- Later editors may have decided to remove this verse because its presence created what appeared to be dual doxologies.
- Alternatively, some editors may have decided to keep it because it was more authentic to Paul, meaning that vs. 25-27 was the alternate doxology written by Tertius.
- The absence of verse 24 does not detract from or negate anything in the letter.

**Romans 16:25-27 → An exhortation to remember.**

*Romans concludes with a brief summary of what Paul has been saying throughout the letter.*

- **God initiates and performs** the matters of Christian faith.
- God has always intended **the Gospel to be for everyone**.
- **God gets the glory**.