

The Last Impression

A Look at the Conclusions of Various Epistles

Romans

Initial Meeting

Not one. This is a church Paul hadn't yet met but they had been on his mind and heart for a long time. See **Romans 15:23-24** for Paul's plans and how the Romans were instrumental in them.

Current Situation

Written from Corinth about 55-56 A.D., this letter is a clear, highly crafted, dissertation on the core teachings of the Lord and how they look when lived by faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, descended from David, and who through the Spirit was declared God's Son in the resurrection. Salvation is God's gift to give and he gives it by grace and we received it by faith from the Word. Being right with God is apart from works of the law. This is true for everyone because all are alike, guilty of breaking the law, and under grace, God gives it to all richly in Jesus. The bulk of the letter elaborates on this, how we're saved and what it looks like to be the peacemakers who live it. This is a powerful letter!

Last Impression

Romans 16:1-27

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. ²I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me. ³Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. ⁵Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. ⁶Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. ⁷Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. ⁸Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord. ⁹Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. ¹⁰Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. ¹¹Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. ¹²Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. ¹³Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too. ¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them. ¹⁵Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them. ¹⁶Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings. ¹⁷I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. ¹⁹Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. ²⁰The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. ²¹Timothy, my

fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives. ²² I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings. ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

1. Having never met most of these people, Paul greets them in a remarkably personal way. How can we be personable without being disingenuous?
2. What major role does positive reinforcement play in the many greetings Paul gives?
3. Who are all these people?? Let's go down the list!
 - Phoebe – Deacon, servant in the Lord. What's the significance of her commendation?
 - Priscilla and Aquila – Fellow workers, evangelist wife/husband team.
 - Epenetus – First convert in province of Asia who now lived in Rome.
 - Mary – Hard worker for the believers.
 - Andronicus and Junia(s) – Relatives of Paul probably from Jerusalem area, believed in Jesus before him, fellow prisoners with him at one time and noted as outstanding among the apostles. What's that mean?
 - Ampliatius – Beloved by Paul in the Lord. BDAG Lexicon of NT Greek notes Ampliatius was a common slave name.
 - Urbanus and Stachys – A fellow worker and dear friend.
 - Apelles – Tested and approved in Christ, probably went through well known hardship for his faith.
 - Aristobulus – A home church host.
 - Herodin – Paul's third relative he lists.
 - Narcissus – Large family/estate or house church host.
 - Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis – Women who worked hard for the gospel.
 - Rufus and his mom – Rufus might be the brother of Alexander and son of Simon of Cryene, who helped carry the cross, but inconclusive. Rufus' mother became a mother figure to Paul.
 - Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobus, Hermas – House church hosts.
 - Philologus (nickname?) and Julia, Nereus, and Olympas – Believer hosts.
4. In the list above, Paul names and commends many women who performed beautiful and dedicated gospel service. What can we take away from this?
5. What is the final admonition to the Romans in **v. 17**? Why this?

6. In **v. 19**, Paul praises their faith and gives another bit of guidance. Do you remember what two animals Jesus told the disciples to be like when he sent them on journey? What does Paul say which echoes Jesus?
7. When and how will **v. 20** happen?
8. Who does Paul list as those with him? Anything of note in this group?
9. What stands out to you in the closing blessing?
10. What's your last impression of Romans?