



————— ❧ *Week 2* ❧ —————

Message Title: People like me

This weeks focus scripture: *Romans 16:1-23*

Additional scripture referenced: *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Hebrews 13:20-21*

This weeks memory challenge: *Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

————— ❧ *Message Notes* ❧ —————

† People like me!
Romans 16:1-23

In this section we see referenced 37 people, most greeted and thanked by Paul. Who were these people? Why are they mentioned here, and what can we learn from them? Here are some of the descriptions:

*Wealthy Benefactors, financial supporters; Slaves, working class families
House church leaders (including women); Risked their lives for the gospel, sent to prison
Worked hard and sacrificially for the gospel; Dear friends and co-workers
Known for their faithfulness; Parental figures; Showing great hospitality; Civic leaders; Scribe, educated*

† Not so hidden figures

† The centrality of community
Romans 16:16

† A word of caution
Romans 16:17-19

† Peace in action!
Romans 16:20, Hebrews 13:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Day 1: Read Romans 16:1-19. Here we see a picture of what the church in Rome looking like when Paul wrote Romans. As you read, take time to imagine meeting these very real people. What are some things we know about them, just from this text? How does this personal look into the lives of the church in Rome both encourage and challenge us?

Day 2. Of the 37 people referenced in Romans 16, 10 of them are women. Far from being ‘hidden’ in the church’s ministry, these women are described as being leaders and centrally important to God’s work in the church of this day. Phoebe and Junia are described as being a ‘deaconess’ and ‘apostle’, respectively. What is your understanding of Biblical teaching regarding how God uses women within the church? *(Note! There is no agenda here, just a desire that our understanding of issues such as ‘women’s role in the church’ is based on an honest, in-depth assessment of what scripture teaches, not just denominational tradition. Regarding this question, there is additional relevant scripture beyond just Romans 16, but this text is definitely significant to the question.)*

Day 3. Read Romans 16:17-19. This passage is a strong warning not to be deceived by false teachers. According to this passage:

- What are the ‘harms’ that these false teachers can cause?
- What is the motivation of these false teachers?
- What does it mean to be ‘wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil?’

Day 4. Read Romans 16:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, and Hebrews 13:20-21. How is the concept of ‘Peace’ here different from our modern, typical understanding of ‘peace?’ Based on these passages, what are ways the “God of Peace” is active in our lives? How are these works of God connected to our experience of His peace?