

**Romans 16:1-2**  
**Cherish the Ladies**

“I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” -2 Timothy 1:3-7 ESV

**1.Introducing Phoebe 1**

A. The Carrier

“Letters of recommendation were well known in antiquity, and it was customary to commend or recommend the courier of the letter, especially if he or she was unknown to the audience.”  
Ben Witherington, “Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

B. Our Sister

“Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house.” -Philemon 1:1-2 ESV

“Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?” -James 2:5 ESV

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” -Galatians 6:10 ESV

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” -Ephesians 2:18-22 ESV

The importance of everyone to build up the church.

C. A Deacon of the Church of Cenchrea

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:”  
Philippians 1:1 ESV

“Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” -1 Timothy 3:8-13 ESV

Who has authority in the church?

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” -James 4:1-7 ESV

Two couples of importance.

“Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **who risked their necks for my life**, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.”  
Romans 16:3-5 ESV

“Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and **my fellow prisoners**. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.”  
Romans 16:7 ESV

“After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At **Cenchreae** he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.” -Acts 18:18 ESV  
“After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he

went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.”  
Acts 18:1-4 ESV

## 2. Welcome and Work 2

### A. Welcome

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”  
Romans 12:13 ESV

The Edict of Claudius refers to the Roman Emperor Claudius's action—likely around A.D. 49—to expel Jews from Rome due to ongoing disturbances

### B. Help Her Help You

Patron or Benefactor

“We are justified in our evaluation of Phoebe as something like Paul's ‘financial agent’ in his negotiations with the Roman church.”-LT Johnson

“and we labor, working with our own hands.” -1 Corinthians 4:12 ESV

“Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.” -2 Corinthians 11:7-9 ESV

“Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.”  
Luke 8:1-3 ESV

*“Jesus Paid it All  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow”*

## 3. A Family Welcome 3-16

### A. Embrace

“It literally means to wrap one's arms around and embrace someone”  
Ben Witherington

### B. A Family Example

“Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.” -Romans 16:13 ESV

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” -Romans 12:1-2 ESV

“I always wanted to be a mom and the Lord just keeps letting me love people like a mom.” -Valerie

*Reflection: Tell your mom you love her today if you can. Tell one of the ladies who has been a leader, teacher, or who has reached out to care for you in the church thank you (text, call, send a card!).*

### **Follow UP in the Word this Week...**

**Monday:** 2 Timothy 1:3-7. Who has been in your life the way Timothy's mother and grandmother were? Is it a family member or someone in the church? Who are you being there for in the same way?

**Tuesday:** Romans 12:1-2. As you present your body as a living sacrifice, how are you giving yourself for others?

**Wednesday:** Luke 8:1-3. When you read about these women, what happened their lives to cause them to follow Jesus and give so much to Him? Has your reaction to Jesus been similar?

**Thursday:** Acts 18:1-4. Have you ever had co-workers like Paul did, people who lived and cared for Jesus and others the way you did?

**Friday:** James 4:1-7. As you read James today, is there anything that you need to lay down to Jesus? Any conflicts? Any problems?

**Saturday:** Ephesians 2:18-22. How are you being led by the Lord to build up the household of God today?