

“Phebe: Portrait of a Christian Women”
Romans 16:1-2

This last chapter in Romans contains the most extensive list of Paul's love and affection for other believers and coworkers found anywhere in his NT letters.

It also provides insights into the lives of ordinary first-century Christians and gives an inside look at the nature and character of the early church.

We have a commendation of an unknown woman named Phebe. Paul introduces the believers in Rome to this very special woman.

TT- Note three words that are used to describe Phebe a Christian woman.

A Christian woman is introduced as a

I. Sister (16:1a).

A. Speaks of Her Relationship with the Father.

Women who are saved have a father/daughter relationship with God. Her name means “Radiant or bright.”

Her name also another name for the Corinthian goddess Diana. She could possibly have been raised in a home of idol worshipers. She was saved from paganism by the light of the glorious gospel and a sister because she knows the Father.

Truth- Regardless of your background, once saved, you are a child of God.

B. Speaks of Her Relationship with the Family.

She was also in a relationship with other redeemed children of God. Paul says, “Our sister.”

Probably an outcast by her family, but she had a new family, one by spiritual birth.

It is in based on this relationship to the Christian family that Paul encourages the Roman Christians to receive her. Here we have a Jew recommending a Gentile to a group of Romans. Only the grace of God could do that!

Truth- Thank God for our church family where we can experience nurture, acceptance, love, and joy. Most of all, instruction in the Word of God!

I. Sister (16:1a).

II. Servant (16:1b-2a).

A. Her Practice (v.1b).

She was a “servant” and is translated as “deacon” elsewhere. She did not hold the office but the spirit of the office. The word means “a table waiter, or one who waits on orders from his master.” The word can also mean “one who kicks up the dust.”

“Of the church” She was under the authority of the local church ministering to the church. She was a servant of the church at Cen-chre-a.

B. Her Praise (v. 2a).

Paul calls the church at Rome to receiver her “as becometh saints.” Paul affirms her life and work demonstrated that she was a saint of God. This is a letter of recommendation!

Her life matched her profession. The saved women who are dedicated to the Lord are to be respected and honored.

Truth- We honor those who don’t gossip, who dress and carry themselves like a lady, and talk and act like a lady.

Paul charges the church to help her and assist her in ministry. To come alongside and offer help.

Truth- Though women don’t lead the church, they certainly serve the church. We offer them our prayers, encouragement, and resources as they do what only women can do.

I. Sister (16:1a).

II. Servant (16:1b-2a).

III. Supporter (v. 2b).

This old English word “succorer” which means “to come to another’s assistance or support.” It means “to run under,” A protector of others who cared for the affairs of others and aided them with her resources.”

She gave herself to others:

1. She gave her talent- She wanted to be a blessing to Paul and to others. She placed the needs of others ahead of herself.

2. She gave her time- She was willing to give her time to the Lord and the church. She spent her life on behalf of the church.

Whether it was praying for others, visiting the sick and elderly, ministering to the bereaved, a phone call or a letter, or taking a meal. She put feet to her prayers and action to her words.

Con:

Ladies you are important in the family of God and needed in the service of the church.

Q- Are you giving everything you can to the Lord and His church?