

In step with Jesus 190

15/3/26

Key Text: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction

We have come to the last chapter in Romans which we started reading in July last year. Throughout this book we have seen Paul present the gospel and the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and His ministry. We have been challenged by the concepts of grace and the freedom from sin and the law while being accountable to God for our actions. But in all this the love of God and His peace given to us shines through. Let us finish this letter.

Romans 16 1-26

I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, ² that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of ^[a]Achaia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who laboured much for us. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. ¹² Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. ¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you. ²² I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. ²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. ²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — ²⁷ to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Reflections

All through his work and travels, Paul was accompanied by faithful helpers and believers. In this last chapter of Romans he names so many that were faithful to Christ, and their love of Paul and his God. These are personal thanks and commendations for the support that he obtained in the households of the faithful. These greetings are to Romans, Greeks, Jews and Gentiles. Women and Men. The new church had a broad base and crossed cultural, social and economic lines. There was to be no division in the membership. But, as we know; people are free to form their own opinions on doctrines and some of these can be quite strong and cause division within the membership of churches and other groups. We need to keep our eyes firmly on Christ, to ask for his wisdom and guidance, study His word remembering that as we work for the Lord, we work in love, and do not work alone. People come and go in our lives. Those who have mentored us in the past. Friends pass or move to other areas of the world. But He is always with us. God has given us a mission to tell the world. We work in His strength. He will guide us and never leave us.

To God be the glory.