

Word notes Sunday 20/7/08 Tony Hodge
Romans 16

Summary

Paul closes his letter with a commendation for the messenger – Phoebe – who is on her way to Rome to do some business, greetings to many in Rome whom he knows and some warnings. The list of greetings gives us insight into the makeup of the Roman church – diverse in race, social standing and gender and unified in Christ.

Paul's warnings show his concern for the church and are valid for us too.

Together these aspects underline Paul's relationship with both the churches and individual people in them.

Paul's concluding doxology (spoken words of praise) gives glory to God and also sums up his purpose in writing the letter.

Application:

Diversity and unity might seem to be opposites, or at the least tend to pull against each other.

Discuss why diversity is good for the church (as well as being in God's plan to see all nations saved) and what benefits we as members of the body receive through our differences.

On what is our unity based? How do we express this in NCC and what does that mean for our relationships with other churches?

Would Paul give the same warnings today (vv 17-20)? If so what current events in our nation might prompt him to do so? How do they stand up to the 3 simple tests? (Is it scriptural, does it glorify Jesus, does it result in good?)

Paul's Doxology (vv25-27) contains a 'fourfold scheme of the making known of the gospel'. What are the four parts to this? (Answer: Revelation in scripture, the command to preach, in obedience to God, for all nations)

How does this fourfold scheme tie in with the beginning of the letter? (Hint – see word notes from Sunday 27/04/08)

Witness:

Discuss what it is that keeps people we know from knowing Christ?

Ephesians 6:12 tells us where the battle lines are drawn – not in this world of flesh and blood. With that in mind pray for the obstacles identified above.

Pray also for the "workers in the harvest" – ie for each other for we are those workers. Especially over the holiday period that we wouldn't switch off from God but be alert to any opportunities our R&R time might bring.