



Part 8: The Power of Affirmation

In the last chapter of Romans, Paul thanks a long list of friends. Even in this P.S., we find four ways we can remain positive and encouraging:

1. Be _____ of leaders (vs. 1-2)

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me." Rom. 16:1

Insight:

1. _____ women in ministry... "I commend... receive her"
2. _____ women in ministry... "give her any help..."
3. _____ women in ministry... "she has been a great help"

2. Be _____ of others (vs. 3-16, 21-24)

There are fascinating stories behind many of these people Paul named...

Insight:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3. Be _____ for troublemakers (vs. 17-20)

"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites... I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil." Rom. 16:17-19

4. Be _____ by God (vs. 25-27)

"Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him-- to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen." Rom. 16:25

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil." Rom. 16:19

Monday

Look back over the message notes and read through Romans 16 again. What points were particularly meaningful to you?

What surprises you about Romans 16?

As you think back over your study of Romans, what surprises you about the Book of Romans?

What do you like about Romans?

Of the main message points this weekend, which is easiest for you to apply?

Which is hardest?

Ask God today to help you in the area you named as your hardest to apply this week.

Tuesday

Read Romans 16:17-19. How have divisions and obstacles been a problem for the Christian church from the day Paul wrote these words?

Why do you suppose this is true?

Why would some religious leaders, as Paul warns, be interested in serving their own appetites, and in deceiving naive people with their "smooth talk and flattery"?

How and why do many of us live exactly the reverse of Paul's command in verse 19-- we are too often naive about what is good, and wise about what is evil?

Ask God for wisdom about what is good, and innocence about what is evil-- instead of the other way around!

Wednesday

Now that we're finished with our Romans study, let's review some key verses from the first section of Romans dealing with doctrine. Read Romans 1:16-17; 1:20; 3:23,24; 4:5; 5:1; 6:11,12; 7:21-24; 8:1,2; 8:18; 8:28; 8:37-39; 11:33-36. (This seems like a long list, but these are all great verses!)

As you think back over the Romans study we've been through in the past six months or so, what ideas from Romans stand out?

How would you summarize the message of Romans?

How is different from the way many perceive the Christian message?

Thank God for His grace today! Pray by name for people you'd like to share this message with.

Thursday

Today let's focus on the last section of Romans-- the section that deals with the practical implications of the doctrine laid out in the first 11 chapters. Read Romans 12:1,2; 12:9,10; 12:21; 13:8-10; 14:1; 14:19; 15:1; 15:7; 15:14 ; 16:1

Is there anything in this section that surprises you?

What themes do you see consistently in this section of Romans?

How are these themes a natural outgrowth of understanding how much God loves me?

Choose an area mentioned in Romans 12-16 where you need to grow. Ask God this week to help you grow in this area.

Ask God to help you filter out all the advice you get through the grid of His Word!

Friday

Read 1 Cor. 11:1 and Phil. 3:17. In studying the book of Romans, we've become a little better acquainted with Paul the Apostle. How is Paul as you've discovered him in Romans different than you expected-- or than some people expect him to be?

In what ways do you want to follow Paul's example?

Thank God that He has set you free from slavery! Make wise choices informed by His revealed will in Scripture!

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed this week, and memorize that verse on the top of the previous page! *Please pray for the weekend services! Thanks!*