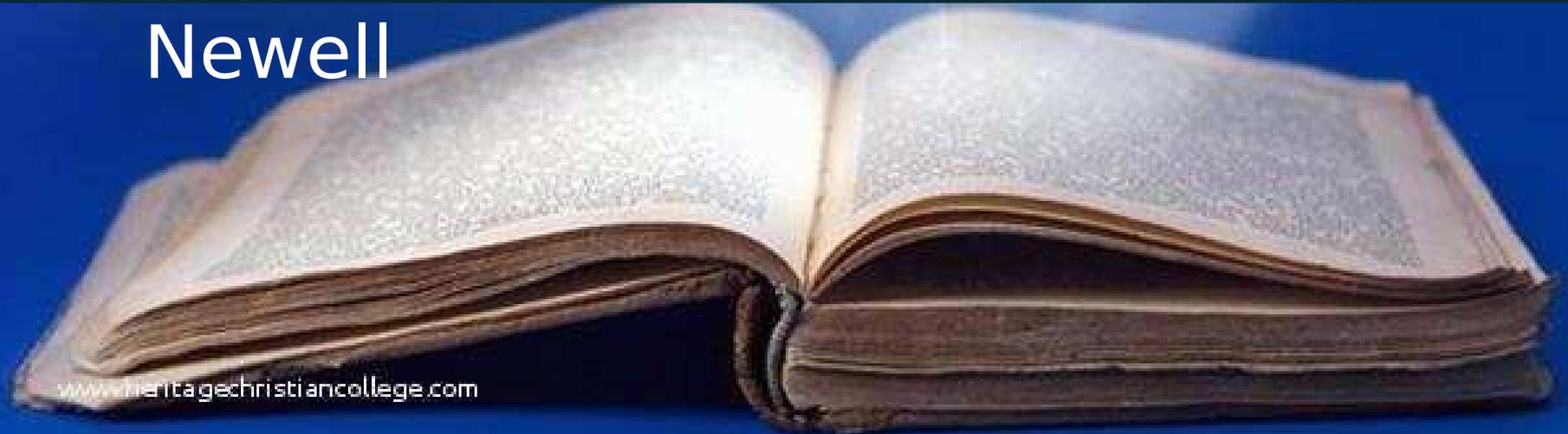


THIS SIXTEENTH CHAPTER IS neglected by many to their own loss. It is by far the most extensive, intimate and particular of all the words of loving greeting in Paul's marvelous letters.

No one can afford to miss this wonderful out pouring of the heart of our apostle toward the saints whom he so loved—which means all the real Church of God!

Newell



¹ **I commend** to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;

The word "**commend**" is **sunistēmi**, made up of **histēmi**, "to place," and **sun**, "with," thus, "to place with," thus, "

to recommend. commend. vouch

We ought to be exercised as to being such as could be truly commended. It is good when brethren who write letters of commendation can refer to definite spiritual features in the persons commended

Coates



Who is Phoebe foybee - Phebe?

- a deaconess of the assembly of Cenchrease-
- "Servant" is diakonos, a word that could be used in either the masculine or feminine genders. The word means "a servant as seen in his activity"
- Conybeare assumes that Phoebe was a widow, on the ground that she could not, according to Greek manners, have been mentioned as acting in the independent manner, either if her husband had been living or if she had been unmarried.

• Roman says: 'Phoebe carried under the

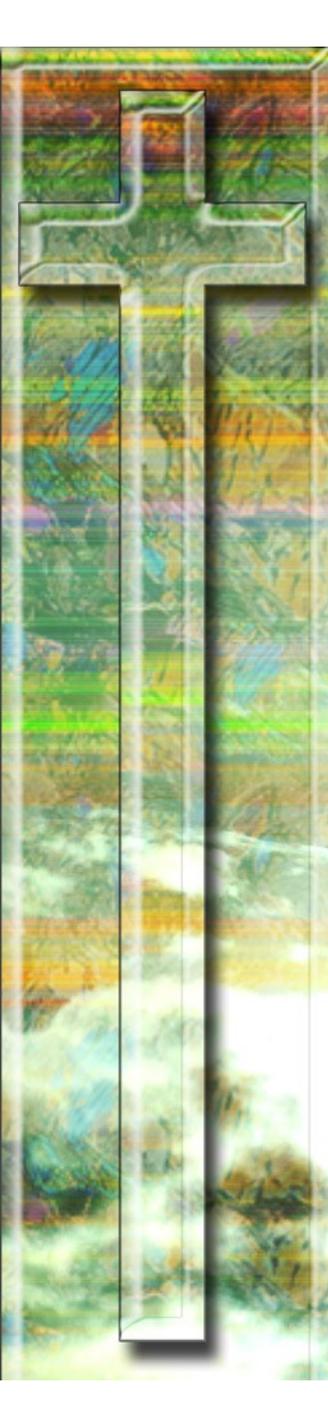
² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

- ***She had business in Rome***
- **She is commended to the saints at Rome.**
- **They are asked to assist her in her affairs in any way that they may find her needing help;**
- **Let us also mark those who, like Phoebe, who are “helpers,” and give ourselves to assisting them, both by prayer and by**

³ *Greet Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,*

⁴ *who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;*

Acts 18:1-3 ¹*After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, ³and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers.*



Aquila is recognized as the head of his house, as we see from **Acts 18:2**: “*A certain Jew, named Aquila, with his wife Priscilla.*” But in **Acts 18:26**, when they are inviting eloquent, poorly-instructed Apollos to their home, **it is Priscilla whose humble discernment and gospel earnestness seem to be foremost:**

“When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they



Compare 2 Timothy 4:19: “*Salute Prisca and Aquila,*”-personal salutations.

But where the church is concerned, as in 1 Cor. 16:19 (for this devoted pair had their house open in Ephesus, also, for a home church of the saints), Aquila, as head of the house, is named first.

The position and ministry of sisters in Christ is not at all

⁵also greet the church that is in their (Aquila and Priscilla) house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

- There was also a **home church of saints** [which gathered] **in their (Aquila and Priscilla's) house.**
- *Salute Epaenetus my beloved... the first-fruits of Asia unto Christ* —probably converted in Paul's three years' mission in Ephesus, the capital of proconsular Asia, which is here referred to. As the 1st convert,

⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

- **Mary is a Jewish name, from Miriam.**

“Worked Hard” means great spiritual toil on behalf of all the saints and assemblies.

Andronicus and Junias

- **"Kinsmen" is *suggenēs*, "of the same kin, related by blood, of the same race, a fellow-countryman." Acts 23:16-22 (NASB77)**

Bishop Moule remarks, “these two early converts helped to ‘goad’ (Acts 26:14) the

:8-9

⁸ *Greet*

*Ampliatus,
my beloved in
the Lord.*

⁹ *Greet*

*Urbanus, our
fellow worker
in Christ, and
Stachys my
beloved.*

- **Ampliatus - Probably a convert of Paul's own, dear to him.**

Urbanus

- **Notice how Paul remembers the names of those who were either known by him as believers or labored with him in the ministry.**

Also notice how many times Paul refers to them as beloved **in the Lord or**

10-11

*¹⁰Greet Apelles,
the approved in
Christ. Greet
those who are of
the household of
Aristobulus.*

*¹¹ Greet Herodion,
my kinsman.*

*Greet those of the
household of
Narcissus, who
are in the Lord.*

Bishop Lightfoot holds that this Aristobulus was the grandson of Herod the Great, brother of Herod Agrippa of Judea; “his household” therefore, would be his retainers and servants, who would still, after his death, hold their master’s name.

This may be true also of the household of Narcissus, in [verse 11](#).

The word “household” does not [appear](#) in the Greek, but only

12-13

¹² Greet

*Tryphaena and
Tryphosa,
workers in the
Lord. Greet
Persis the
beloved, who has
worked hard in
the Lord.*

*¹³ Greet Rufus, a
chosen man in
the Lord, also
his mother and
mine.*

- **Note that Paul speaks of the men to whom he is especially attached, (like Stachys in verse 9), as “my beloved,” and of a woman as “*the* beloved.”**
- **Tryphæna and Tryphosa were, perhaps, sisters; and “almost certainly, by the type of their names, female slaves.”**
- **Perhaps the Rufus of Mark 15: 21, the son of Simon of Cyrene, who bore our Lord’s cross! “And his mother, and**

14-15

*¹⁴ Greet
Asyncritus,
Phlegon,
Hermes,
Patrobas,
Hermas and the
brethren with
them.*

*¹⁵ Greet
Philologus and
Julia, Nereus
and his sister,
and Olympas,
and all the saints
who are with
them.*

We can see that many of the converts to Christianity are from the ranks of the slaves.

This is the second of the three gatherings of saints in Rome here mentioned. We must remember that in the early days of the Church believers gathered in great simplicity, according to our Lord's word:

“Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt 18:20).

Newell

It is fast coming to this, in these last days, also, where the Laodicean spirit claims the property and ecclesiastical importance in this world, of that which is known as “the Christian religion”; while humble saints, finding themselves unfed and very often unwanted in the great “establishments,” are gathering more and more as the early Christians did,—in homes, in Bible Conferences— wherever Christ and His Word and real

*¹⁶Greet one another with a **holy** kiss.
All the churches of Christ greet you.*

- It is foretold of God (as the absolutely "Holy" One, in His purity, majesty and glory):**
- It is used of men and things in so far as they are devoted to God.**
- The quality, as attributed to God, is often presented in a way which involves Divine demands upon the conduct of believers.**

This sainthood is not an attainment; it is a state into

which God in grace calls men

¹⁶*Greet one another with a **holy** kiss.
All the churches of Christ greet you.*

"It is evident that **hagios and its kindred words**

- ❖ **Express something more and higher than hieros, sacred, outwardly associated with God;**
- ❖ **Something more than semnos, worthy, honorable;**
- ❖ **Something more than hagnos, pure, free from defilement. **hagios** is ... more comprehensive**
- ❖ **It is characteristically **godliness**"**

"Greet one another with a holy kiss; all the Churches of Christ greet you."

The Roman saints were instructed to show mutual love in the Lord; and Paul sends greetings from all the churches of Christ. Who knew their minds and hearts better than Paul? The Holy Spirit who formed and wrote by Paul; He would keep the saints in the interchange of true and warm but holy affection in His grace.

All are believers exhorted to show clearly their love to one another by greeting "with a holy kiss."

