

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 61

Romans 16 - On Being Thoughtful

INTRODUCTION: Urban life tends to make us rather impersonal and unthoughtful of each other. This should not be so for the child of God. We should be very careful to be expressive of the gratitude, thoughtfulness and love that we have for each other. It is very interesting that the Apostle Paul took time to greet so many people when he wrote his epistles. His letters were usually caused by a sense of urgency. He had heavy matters to care for and important documents to discuss. Yet, in spite of this, he took time for a personal greeting. He took time to be kind and expressive of love to people about whom we would never have heard had it not been for his thoughtfulness. Let us notice the people to whom he was thoughtful, and let us apply this to our own lives.

- I. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL CONCERNING HIS HELPERS. Romans 16:3, “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus.” All of us should be thoughtful of those who help us in any way. Not only in verse 3 did he say this, but you will find that he was thoughtful of his helpers in verses 6 and 9: “Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us. Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.” None of us is a self-made person, and all of us need the rest of us. Think of those who have helped you and those who do help you, and think of ways to be thoughtful to them.
- II. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF THE CHURCH. Romans 16:5, “Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epænetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.” Probably there are no other people in the world, other than our own immediate family members, who are taken for granted as much as our church friends. Sit down sometime and think of all the church people who have been a blessing to you. Think of something thoughtful you can do for them. (Teacher, have the class go through a period of naming church members who have especially been a blessing to them.)
- III. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF HIS FAMILY. Romans 16:7, “Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.” Notice especially the word “kinsmen.” The same word is mentioned in verses 11 and 21: “Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.” Paul was thoughtful of those who were his relatives. Ah, here is a place for improvement. We ought to be kind to those who are our loved ones. (Teacher, stress here the importance of being kind to brothers, sisters, Mother and Father. Certainly this affects all of the members of the family.)
- IV. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF THE AGED. Romans 16:13, “Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.” Notice, he is talking about the mother of a friend named Rufus, and the words here imply that she was like a mother to him. (Teacher, take some time here to impress upon the pupils the importance of being thoughtful to older people. Call off some names of the older people in the church. Suggest that the pupils do some kind deed for them in the next few days.)
- V. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF HIS HOST. Romans 16:23a, “Gais mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you.” He was very careful to be grateful for anyone who had done anything for him. He was thoughtful of those who had prepared a meal or had him in their homes or done any other courtesy to and for him.
- VI. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF CITY OFFICIALS. Romans 16:23b, “Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.” Notice the words, “chamberlain of the city.” Paul was a good citizen. He did thoughtful deeds for the officials of the city. The dear Lord knows they get enough criticism. Why shouldn’t we be thoughtful of them! They live in glass houses, carry big loads, shoulder big responsibilities and receive so little gratitude.
- VII. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF THE PREACHER. Colossians 4:7, “All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord.” Notice the words, “faithful minister.”

- VIII. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN SAVED FROM WICKED LIVES. Colossians 4:9, “With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.” Onesimus was a thief. He had stolen from his master, Philemon; had gone to Rome; and had been apprehended, convicted and placed in jail. Paul won him to Christ and never forgot him.
- IX. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF SERVANTS. Colossians 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”
- X. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF HIS PHYSICIAN. Colossians 4:14, “Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.”
- XI. PAUL WAS THOUGHTFUL OF THOSE WHO HAD FORSAKEN HIM. Again, we read Colossians 4:14, “Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.” Demas forsook the Apostle Paul. Yet, Paul forgave him. II Timothy 4:10, “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.” Paul followed the admonition of our Lord, Who said we should love those who hate us and bless those who curse us.

CONCLUSION: Let us be thoughtful people, expressive of our gratitude and our appreciation.