



# transformed

studies in Romans 9-16

SCPC term 4 2007

## sunday 16th december 2007

### study 9 transformed teamwork Romans 16

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

Passages like Romans 16 often get overlooked. Publisher inserted subheadings like 'personal greetings' don't exactly inspire reading on. At a glance it looks a bit like the credits that roll up at the end of the film—why bother staying... the main action is over, right?. Indeed, many series in the book of Romans would finish up where we got to last week—at chapter 15. That's a shame! Passages like Romans 16 should be regarded as among the more important of the New Testament. They are a great insight into the life and ministry of the early church. **TEAMWORK**. While Romans 15 saw Paul inviting the Roman church to be part of his mission... Romans 16 puts flesh and blood, and **NAMES** on that idea. Real people. Real mission. Real work. And all of it **IN CHRIST**.

#### some notes on questions

Q1. Even the Apostle Paul wasn't a 'one man band'... sometimes the 'Paul's missionary journey' maps in our Bible can cause us to forget the literally hundreds of co-workers in his mission.

Q2. Refer Galatians 3:28... Paul not only saw that our salvation is achieved all the same way regardless of who we are (in Christ Jesus)... but we all have a part to play in mission for Jesus. Notice especially that, while Paul speaks elsewhere (e.g. 1 Tim 2) about women not having an authoritative teaching role over men, he has many women performing a range of ministries in his team (the tag you may sometimes hear that Paul is anti-women is not backed by the evidence).

Q3. Come back to this list in question 7 as inspiration for different forms of service.

Q4. This is critical. We are all one in Christ Jesus. But Paul says "don't be naïve!" - there are some who claim to belong to Jesus but are only interested in division or are not on about the true gospel of Jesus. Unity is never for unity's sake. Unity is for the sake of Jesus. And we do not honour him by failing to discern false teaching or false teachers.

Q5. A great chance here to go over the key teachings of Romans. A flick back through the key verses in previous studies may be a helpful way to cover some ground.

Q6. Remember the expression in 14:1 "disputable matters" and you'll be on the right track.

Q7-8. PLEASE don't let this be vague—Jesus death for our sin wasn't!

**digging deeper:** a repeat from last week—but worth another look!

small group bible study leaders' notes



remember that once the talk goes up on the website you can always post a question/observation by leaving a comment—it's easy to do and then others will also be able to see the response when it goes up and leave their thoughts too.

**coming events**  
christmas day at lis. high: 9:30am