

## **It Takes a Team** Romans 16:21-24

There are eight people mentioned by name in these three verses. Each of them is a follower of Christ and they are different from the others greeted in Romans 16 because:

- (1). They are in Corinth, not Rome.
- (2). They are helping Paul in his ministry to Rome.
- (3). They send their greetings, rather than receive any greetings. It would be safe to say that Paul's ministry to the Romans would not have had as great of an impact without them.

### **I. A team can accomplish more than what one person can ever do alone.**

This Corinthian team of ministers is composed of people, not all of whom are leaders.

**(A). One is called to serve others . . .** *"Timothy, my workfellow"* (v.21).

This is the Timothy Paul considers "a son" and to whom he wrote two letters.

The word "workfellow" comes from the same Greek word we get "synergy."

Timothy was a "co-laborer." Paul usually gets the credit, but Timothy supported.

**(B). One is called to strengthen others . . .** *"I Tertius, who wrote this epistle"* (v.22).

Tertius was the person who wrote down what Paul said (Greek "amanuensis").

Many believe Paul had to have a professional scribe because of poor eyesight.

(Cross reference Galatians 6:11). Tertius spent tedious hours recording Romans.

The requirements for a letter to be included in the Canon of Scripture included:

- (1). The author was an eyewitness of the risen Lord,
- (2). The letter circulated among the churches (Colossians 4:16),
- (3). And testimony was given at the Council of Chalcedon of lives that had been transformed by reading the letter.

Tertius is a person who came along side Paul and strengthened him in ministry.

**(C). One is called to sustain others . . .** *"Gaius mine host, and the whole church"* (v.23).

We read that Paul baptized Gaius in Corinth (I Cor. 1:14), and it seems that Gaius opened his home to the Apostle Paul and eventually the entire church.

### **II. A team functions best when team members appreciate the gifts of others.**

Gaius was not the only wealthy person in the city of Corinth. There was a man called Erastus, the "chamberlain" (city treasurer) of Corinth. Erastus was most likely a person of Roman aristocracy. He, too, was a member of the Corinthian church.

*"Hence, it appears that though not many, yet some rich and honourable were called by grace and embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ in Corinth."* **Dr. John Gill.**

When a church functions properly there is appreciation for all the people grace calls.

### **III. A team can only accomplish lasting results by the grace of God.**

*"The grace of Christ be with you all"* (v.24) is a verse that the NIV leaves out, but it is an important verse. It seems that Paul (or even Tertius) is recognizing the contributions of "Team Corinth" and is saying, "The grace (favor) of Christ be with you all." For any team to accomplish anything eternally requires this grace.

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it"* (Psalm 127:1).

Emmanuel Baptist Church is a group of people who form a team commissioned by Christ to take the gospel to the world. It's time for you to join Team Emmanuel.