

Romans 16:1-27: Resurrection Power for Real People

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Romans / Romans 16:1–27

Introduction

- <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/26/nx-s1-5760894/sock-burning-annapolis-oysters-sailing-chesapeake-bay>
- Burning of socks - an annual reminder that something new has begun. Spring is here. Flowers starting to bloom, days are longer, starting to cut grass, getting past pollen season.
- Easter Sunday isn't the annual reminder of a new season. For Christians, Easter Sunday is the annual reminder that 2,000 years ago when Jesus walked out of the grave, everything changed. If you're a believer, everything has changed for you.
- Every week we gather no matter what book of the Bible we're in, we're reminded that Jesus changes everything about us.
- I'm thankful for Resurrection Sunday, but you and I need the weekly reminder that resurrection power is for real people.
- What has the resurrection changed about you? Maybe it doesn't seem like the resurrection has changed much about you at all. Maybe for you the resurrection of Jesus is a powerful story that's important to believe, but it's not shaping your daily life.
- In [Romans 16](#), we see how the resurrection shapes daily life. As we finish Romans, three truths to consider to help you experience resurrection power in your daily life.

The resurrection places your name in God's redemptive story.

- [Romans 16](#) like reading the phone book - a bunch of names that mean nothing to us but meant everything to Paul. These were people he had met and ministered with - fellow believers.
- vs. 1 - Phoebe - first of a number of women mentioned. Might have been the person who carried the letter to Rome. A benefactor - a woman of means who used her wealth to promote the Gospel.
- Other noteworthy names: Prisca and Aquila - Married couple who were tentmakers that Paul met in Corinth. Key ministry partners who “risked their own necks” for Paul. All the Gentile churches aware of them - great influence.
- Epaenetus - first convert from Asia (vs. 5).
- vs. 7 - Andronicus and Junia - either were in jail at some point with Paul, or, like Paul, experienced imprisonment for their faith. They came to faith before Paul did and were known to the apostles.
- Vs. 10-11 - House of Aristobulus and Herodion - these may have been believers who came from the household of Herod the Great.
- vs. 12 - three women that worked hard in the Lord.
- vs. 13 - Rufus - same Rufus in [Mark 15:21](#)? Son of Simon of Cyrene who carried the cross of Jesus?
- vs. 16 - Greet one another with affection, warmth, and enthusiasm.
- vs. 21-23 - More names! Greetings from Timothy and others who were with Paul.
- vs. 22 - Greetings from Tertius - Paul dictated, Tertius recorded.
- vs. 23 - Greetings from the city treasurer!

- A list of names of people not known to us, but to Paul they were family; people he had a meaningful connection with because of the Gospel of Jesus. A very diverse group bound together as family because of the resurrection of Jesus.
- The resurrection of Jesus doesn't merely place you in a private relationship with Jesus. It places you in a family where your life is known. Paul's been telling us this for the last few chapters, and now he names people in his faith family.
- **You are not meant to live an anonymous Christian life.**
 - An amazing thought: God knows your name. But, He knows more than your name. He knows you. He knows you because he created you and He loves you.
 - God's love for you compelled Him to send His Son to die and rise again for you to give you a new name: child of God.
 - We're all a part of God's redemptive story: sons and daughters of God; His family.
 - Church is not a place to attend but a family to belong to.
 - God wants far more for you than to just show up on Sunday mornings. He wants you to know Him, and He wants you to be known by Him and His family.
 - Who actually knows your life in this church? Afraid of people judging you? Rejecting you? It may happen, but more than likely, you'll find people who will embrace you and help you.
- **Your ordinary faithfulness matters more than you think.**
 - Paul lists every day people who partnered with him in ministry. Notice the descriptions: "risked their own necks," "worked very hard," "approved by Christ," "imprisoned with me," "servant."

- These names are remembered because they were faithful. Faithful to pray, serve, encourage, and share the Gospel.
- If Jesus walked out of the grave, you don't get to live the life of a spectator. Rather, you get to join with the church in the mission of God to expand His Kingdom throughout the earth.

The resurrection declares truth you must not compromise.

- The believers in Rome are a family of faith who guard the truth. Truth is worth guarding.
- vs. 17-18 - Paul wants his readers to know what's contrary to the truth and avoid false teachers who deceive with smooth talk and flattering words.
- It's easy for false teaching to creep into the church. Teachings that deny that Jesus was fully human, or that Jesus was fully God. Teachings that even deny the resurrection.
- Teachings that deny the sinfulness of man, or that Jesus is the only way to the Father.
- Paul wrote this letter to help us understand the truth of the Gospel.
- The resurrection is a historical reality. The Gospel writers give us four eyewitness accounts of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- In [1 Corinthians 15:6](#), Paul tells us that at one time the resurrected Lord appeared to five hundred people at once.
- The entire Christian faith rises or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Paul and the NT writers want us to hold on to the truths of the resurrected Lord and not be swayed by teachings that deny the Gospel truths of [Romans 1-11](#). Truths like:
 - [Romans 3](#) - We're all sinners who deserve punishment.
 - [Romans 6](#) - The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.
 - [Romans 5:8](#) - God proves His love for us by sending His Son to die for us. Through faith in Jesus, we are saved from the wrath of God.
 - [Romans 3:24](#), [Romans 5:1](#) - We are justified by God through faith in Jesus, not our works.
 - [Romans 6](#) - Because of the work of Christ, we're no longer slaves to sin, but empowered by the Spirit to put sin to death.
 - [Romans 6](#) - As Christ was raised from the dead, we will rise to, in His likeness.
 - [Romans 8](#) - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- These are the truths that Paul proclaims in Romans, and these truths are foundational to our faith. We can't compromise them!
- How do you make sure you don't compromise the truth?
- **Understand your own heart.** Prone to wander, prone to be easily convinced.
- **Realize your profound hunger.** You crave truth but you might have a hard time identifying because of your lack of exposure to God's Word. So, you settle for spiritual junk food. (If it sounds good, you'll accept it, even if it's not true.)

- **Know what to look for in a healthy church.** Christ is the focus, Scripture is taught clearly, focus on the mission of God and fellowship of believers, etc.
- **Stay teachable.** You don't need to be affirmed as much as you need to be challenged.
- If Jesus is still in the grave, then it really doesn't matter what you believe. However, if Jesus walked out of the grave, truth is real, and you don't get to redefine it.

The resurrection guarantees victory you must embrace.

- vs. 19 - Evidence that Christ was changing the believers in Rome - "Report of your obedience has reached everyone..."
- Paul continues to press the church toward holiness. "Be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil." (e.g., [Matthew 10:16](#))
- vs 20 - [Gen. 3:15](#) - Promise that one day the Messiah would crush the head of the serpent. That happened at the cross. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Satan was defeated. ([Colossians 2:14-15](#)) -
- At the cross, our sin debt paid by Jesus. Satan can accuse you, but his accusations are baseless. He has no power to condemn you ([Romans 8:1](#)).
- And...one day he will be put under your feet. Satan cannot condemn you but he certainly tempts you. There's a real spiritual battle where the enemy is trying to take your eyes off of Christ. BUT... when Christ returns, the enemy will be crushed under your feet. He will never rear his head in your life again.

- [Romans 8](#) - Paul has already taught us about victorious life. Walk in the victory by going to war with your sin. Do not let Satan take your eyes off of Jesus.
- vs. 25-27 - Paul ends the letter with a beautiful Gospel benediction.
- The letter ends with what God has done. In Christ, God has finally revealed what He promised in the Old Testament. In the OT, God promised a Messiah who would draw the nations to Himself. That Messiah has come. He has lived for us. He has died for us. He has rose again for us.
- For those who believe, this Gospel message strengthens our faith (vs. 25). When life gets tough, we remember what God has done for us and the hope we have in Christ.
- If you are not a believer, Resurrection Sunday is an opportunity to embrace Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life by repenting of your sins and giving your life to Him by faith.
- If you desire a relationship with Jesus, i want you to now that:
- **Embracing resurrected life is not easy.** Christians do not have an easier life. In some ways Christians have a more challenging life. BUT, Christians have eternal hope.
- **Embracing resurrected life will cost you.** You can't trust Christ and stay the same. Repentance is turning from your old way of life and turning to new life.
- **Embracing resurrected life is a daily decision.** Following Jesus isn't a one time decision to pray a prayer so you can escape hell. Following Jesus is daily surrender. It's daily saying to God, "Not my will, but your will be done.
- **Embracing resurrected life will always be worth it.** If you follow Jesus, you will be given the gift of eternal life. It's worth it. You will be

given the gift of the Spirit of God living inside of you to help you know God and live for Him. You will experience joy, peace, comfort, and the joy of being a part of a faith family. It's worth it. You will not look back and say, "I wish i would have stayed in my sin."

- if you are not a follower of Jesus, today, give your life to Him.