

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Mark Moser

Greetings! (and Warnings)

Romans 16:1–23

(black Bibles page 950; Children's Bibles page 1418)

Our series continues: *Healthy: Life & Church in Romans 12-16*

Can an overlooked passage like this tell us something about the essence of the Christian faith? And not merely some minor points?

- Indeed, it does!

[16:1-16]

Let's look for words that are repeated frequently.

- "Greet"

- "In the Lord" / "in Christ"
 - This is union with Christ language!

- "works" / "works hard"
 - This doesn't tell you *how* to be saved, but it does tell you about the *results* of salvation.

Look at the many commendations that Paul gives. How many could have been said about Christ himself?

- This is what happens when someone is "in Christ" – they start to look like Him!

[16:17-23]

Purpose of the entire book of Romans? See verse 17.

- Question: If Jew-Gentile relations were the primary threat to unity in the early church, what would it be today in our context?

Verse 19 has a wise saying worth pondering: "I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil."

Verse 20 alludes to the very first messianic prophecy in the Bible: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." See Genesis 3:15.

Final thoughts and applications