

HIDDEN TREASURES

THE PASSAGE

Romans 16:1-16 and 21-23

THREE THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO OVERLOOK OR FORGET

(1) These are **REAL** letters to **REAL** people.

Romans 1:1-15 Romans 16:1-16 21-23 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & Romans 15:4

(1) It's the **INERRANT** word of God.

(2) It was written **FOR** me, not **TO** me.

(3) It's a library collection of 66 **BOOKS** and **LETTERS**.

(2) Christianity is a **TEAM SPORT**.

1 Corinthians 12:14 & 26 Romans 12:5 Romans 16:1-16 21-23

- We're not on an individualized quest to **KNOW** God better.
We're on a group project to **SERVE** God better.

- We have a **PERSONAL** relationship with God.
But it's not a **PRIVATE** relationship with God.

(3) There are no **LITTLE PEOPLE**.

Romans 16:1-16 21-23 Galatians 3:28 Ephesians 4:16 1 Peter 4:10

Food for Thought for the week of August 20, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. The body of Christ is made up of a unique group of people, and their God-given assignments on the team can make life exciting. At times however, the variation in our strengths and abilities can result in some misunderstandings. How does 1 Corinthians 12:4-27 help us appreciate the differences in our roles and clarify there are no “little people” on the team?

1 Corinthians 12:4-27 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Unity and Diversity in the Body

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

2. Most of us wouldn’t want to be known as the person that sat on the bench, unwilling to get in the game and join the team in making a difference when we had the opportunity. Yet, we all know that staying motivated to serve others daily, and/or playing our role, can be difficult at times. How might the following verses help us stay motivated and keep a vision of making a difference?

Ephesians 2:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 6:7-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Matthew 25:37-46 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 *New International Version (NIV)*

Final Instructions

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

3. Larry mentioned in this week’s teaching that all too often we trip up in thinking that Christianity is just “God and me.” We forget that regular connection with believers is essential to tuning into and being led by the Holy Spirit. How does Hebrews 10:24-25 describe and emphasize this point?

Hebrews 10:24-25 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

These kinds of connections usually don’t happen by accident and often need to be intentional. Are there any steps you need to take to make better connections with other believers?

** Here at North Coast Church we’ve created Growth Groups to help with the kind of intentional connections mentioned above. We offer groups for all ages and stages of life. Fall Quarter sign-ups start Labor Day weekend and continue through the next two weekends (September 2 – 17). You can start checking out groups now and get more details online at www.northcoastchurch.com/groups. Beginning September 2, you can sign up online, at any of our campuses during weekend services or by calling the church office at (760) 724-6700.*