

CONNECT Group study questions for December 2, 2018

Title: "People, Protection, and Praise"

Romans 16:1-27

As we approach the closing at the end of this New Testament letter, it is easy just to skim the material and miss the point of its inclusion. However, as Pastor Peppy highlighted, a careful reading of this passage demonstrates 3 points concerning our lives as Christians:

- (1) We are in the people business
- (2) We are in the protection business
- (3) We are in the praise business

Read Romans 16:1-16, 21-24

1. In all of Paul's letters he takes special care to send personal blessings and greetings to his readers. His relationship with others was important to him and he demonstrated this in the closing remarks of his letter to the Romans. This sort of concern highlights that as Christians we are in the people business.

- How does the text demonstrate this concept? What insight do we gain about our interaction with others?
- How can you be more intentional about thinking this way in your daily life?
- What sort of obstacles will you face as you seek to apply this to your life? Can you think of ways to combat these obstacles?

Read Romans 16:17-20

2. The second point in our discussion is that we are in the protection business. In his various letters, Paul often issued warnings to his readers. In this passage, Paul urges believers to hold fast to the doctrine they had been taught and to be aware of those who were trying to deceive them.

- Why do you think Paul takes the time to issue such a warning at the close of his letter to the Romans?
- Why does Paul say that we should avoid people who cause division and offences?
- What steps might we take in our own lives so we can be "wise in what is good and simple concerning evil?"

Read Romans 16:25-27

3. In the final words of this letter, Paul concludes by praising God and giving Him all the glory for everything. In light of everything we have learned while studying the book of Romans, we understand why Paul would include such a wonderful praise to God. This conclusion of Romans serves as a great reminder that we are in the praise business.

- Why is this so important to Paul?
- In these verses what is the "mystery" Paul speaks of? How has it been revealed to us? How does this impact the way you view your relationship with God?

- How might we go about including more praise in our lives? What times (situations or times of day) could you be intentional about praising God?