

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



### Quotes to Ponder

*Paul is a refutation of the idea that those who are interested in doctrine cannot be interested in those for whom the doctrine has been given. New Testament leaders ... were concerned with normal Christian behavior or functions. What they cared about was that Christian people should actually be the servants of others, as Jesus was, not whether they had a badge saying "I am deacon or deaconess of the church."*

James Montgomery Boice

*Romans was not written to professional theologians (though through the centuries scholars have found the epistle a happy hunting ground). As we consider the weighty matters Paul deals with, we are apt to overlook the fact that it was addressed to people like Ampliatus and Tryphena and Rufus. Clearly Paul expected this kind of person to be helped by what he wrote, a fact which modern experts sometimes overlook. And it is fitting that this letter, which has given us so much solid doctrinal teaching, should end with this emphasis on persons, on love, and on a reminder that humble servants of God perform all sorts of active ministry.*

Leon Morris

*The esteemed apostle readily and graciously acknowledged his personal indebtedness to and love for a Christian sister, whom he memorialized in these two verses in the Word of God. And, although God inspired no woman to write a part of Scripture, he used Phoebe to transport the first copy of this marvelous letter, which is one of the bedrocks of New Testament theology. This woman was emblematic of those countless women of God whom He has used and honored with great distinction within the framework of His divine plan.*

John MacArthur

*Never was there a greater burden carried by such tender hands. The theological history of the church through the centuries was in the manuscript which she brought with her. The Reformation was in that baggage. The blessing of multitudes in our day was carried in those parchments.*

Donald Grey Barnhouse

Message #126: *Servant Phoebe*

September 10, 2017

## Sermon Notes

### 1. Commendation

#### A. Sister

#### B. Servant

#### C. Supporter

### 2. Church

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. Read *Romans 16:1-2*. How does Paul describe Phoebe?

How would Paul describe you?

3. Why does Paul *commend* Phoebe to the church in Rome?

4. Did Paul mean Phoebe was a woman with a servant's heart and hands, aiding the church in sacrificial ways, or that she held the office of deacon or deaconess? Explain.

5. Did Phoebe hold an official church office? If so, does that mean the early church had women leaders? Explain.

6. Knowing we must interpret Scripture with Scripture, what do the following verses teach?

*1 Corinthians 14:33-35* —

*1 Timothy 3:11* —

*1 Timothy 2:11-15* —

*1 Peter 3:1-6* —

7. What do the following verses teach about the office of *deacon*?

*Acts 6:1-6* —

*1 Timothy 3:8-13* —

8. What does *Romans 16:1-2* teach us about relationships between Christians?

In what areas do I need to improve?

9. Why should we be very thankful for Phoebe?

10. Besides Phoebe, there are a number of women in the Bible who served in ministry with great distinction. Read of them below.

*Luke 1:39-56* —

*Acts 16:13-15* —

*Acts 9:36-41* —

*2 Timothy 1:5* —

What other biblical women can you think of who served God greatly?

**Reflection Questions:** How much of a *servant of the church* am I? What am I willing to do (or not do) at ABC? Do I truly believe in the truth of the Scriptures as God's Word? Am I submissive to Him and His truth or do I chafe, argue, and seek to find a way around what it teaches?