

# *Transformed!*

## How God Renews the Lives of His People

# Get Personal

## Part 22: *Everyday World Changers*

### A Note from Pastor Keith...

Paul's amazing letter about spiritual and cultural transformation is drawing to a close with little left but personal greetings...or so it might seem. In fact there are powerful challenges in this very personal closing chapter.

## You can help us change the world!

### 1. Take on the role and responsibilities of a **Servant**.

<sup>1</sup>I commend to you our sister Phoebe, **a servant of the church** in Cenchrea [near Corinth]. <sup>2</sup>I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for **she has been a great help to many people**, including me.

Romans 16:1-2 (all references are NIV)

### 2. Take on the role and responsibilities of a **Leader**.

<sup>3</sup>Greet **Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers** in Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>**They risked their lives for me**. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. <sup>5a</sup>Greet also **the church that meets at their house**.

Romans 16:3-5a

***In addition to being house church leaders, Priscilla and Aquila were (literally) fellow travelers...***

<sup>1</sup>After this, Paul left Athens and went to **Corinth**. <sup>2</sup>There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave **Rome**. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup>and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. <sup>18a</sup>Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. <sup>19a</sup>They arrived at **Ephesus**....

Acts 8:1-3, 18a, 19a

***...as well as highly effective disciplers of young spiritual leaders.***

<sup>24</sup>Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When **Priscilla and Aquila** heard him, they **invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately**.

Acts 18:24-26

### 3. Regardless, find *something* to do and then...

## **WORK REALLY HARD AT IT!**

<sup>5b</sup>Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was **the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia**. <sup>6</sup>Greet Mary, who **worked very hard** for you.

<sup>7</sup>Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have **been in prison with me**. They are **outstanding among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was. <sup>8</sup>Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Greet

## *Get Personal!*

What are you doing to change the world?

Let's dream BIG for a moment. Imagine yourself doing everything God has called you to do and being everything God has called you to be. Just imagine the impact! How would Paul greet you? *Write it down.*

What do you need to change to make that dream a reality?

Urbanus, **our fellow worker** in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.  
<sup>10</sup>Greet Apelles, **tested and approved in Christ**. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup>Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who **work hard in the Lord**. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has **worked very hard in the Lord**. <sup>13</sup>Greet Rufus, **chosen [eminent] in the Lord**, and his mother, who has **been a mother to me**, too. <sup>14</sup>Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them. <sup>15</sup>Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them. <sup>16</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

Romans 16:5b-16

## Or you can get in the way.

### 1. How? By causing divisions and creating obstacles.

<sup>17a</sup>I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who **cause divisions and put obstacles in your way** that are contrary to the teaching you have learned.

Romans 16:17a

### 2. Why do we do that? Self-centeredness.

<sup>18</sup>For **such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites**. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Romans 16:18

### 3. How do we deal with it? Distance, godly wisdom, and personal purity. (*God will handle the rest!*)

<sup>17b</sup>**Keep away from them.**

Romans 16:17b

<sup>19</sup>Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to **be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil**. <sup>20</sup>The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Romans 16:19-20

## Closing Reminders:

### 1. We're in this together...

<sup>21</sup>Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives. <sup>22</sup>I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

Romans 16:21-23

### 2. ...and God is with us!

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup>but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Romans 16:25-27

## Get Personal!

What might you be doing to cause or promote divisions in God's family or to create obstacles for His Kingdom work?

What will you do to establish and maintain a healthy distance from divisive, obstructive people?

What will you do to build into yourself even more godly wisdom?

What changes will you make to promote growth in personal purity—an "unmixed" life of spiritual integrity?