

GLORY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS FOREVER

LIFE IS DIFFICULT

- Hardship
- Hurt
- Disappointment
- Betrayal

CAN GOD REALLY DEAL WITH IT?

Many people say, "No."

How long must this land mourn? Even the grass in the fields has withered. The wild animals and birds have disappeared because of the evil in the land. For the people have said, "The LORD doesn't see what's ahead for us!" Jeremiah 12:4 (NLT)

GOD ANSWERS

"So, you think this is tough?!"

"If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you race against horses? If you stumble and fall on open ground, what will you do in the thickets near the Jordan?"
Jeremiah 12:5 (NLT)

GOD'S WARNING TO HIS FOLLOWER

"When you choose Me you have chosen a new life and new relationships and new values which even those closest to you in family relationship will not get."

"So, be aware, be careful. Stay true and do not stray for your life matters to Me and what you do in my name counts."

Even your brothers, members of your own family, have turned against you. They plot and raise complaints against you. Do not trust them, no matter how pleasantly they speak. Jeremiah 12:6 (NLT)

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY IS REBELLION AGAINST THE EVIL POWERS OF THIS WORLD

- Relationship with God angers the enemy and draws fire
- Relationships among God's people can develop love and harmony defeating the enemies desire to divide and destroy

ROMANS 16 GOD'S PEOPLE KEEPING GOD FIRST

The Mercies of God Series

- The enemy sets up the world's values and deceives people into accepting them
- God provides eternal values for the good of people
- God's people go with God which results in His glory and their good

GOD'S PEOPLE

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. ² Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me. Romans 16:1-2 (NLT)

PHOEBE

THE WORLD OR THE FLESH

- No place or authority for a woman
- No honor or respect for a woman
- Personal accomplishments and achievements are elevated
- Personal goals are all important

GOD'S WAY

- Phoebe is a deaconess in the church and has a place
- Phoebe is worthy of honor among God's people (yes, it is OK)
- Phoebe instead of seeking her own served others including Paul

GOD'S PEOPLE GOING GOD'S WAY

³ Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus.

⁴ In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. ⁵ Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. Romans 16:3-5 (NLT)

PRISCILLA AND AQUILA

THE WORLD OR THE FLESH

- No place or authority for a woman
- No honor or respect for a wife
- Risk is something you do for your investments not something you do for others
- Personal space and your house is for you and your comfort

GOD'S WAY

- Wife, Priscilla, is considered a co-worker in Christ's building activities with her husband and the Apostle Paul
- Husband and wife risked their lives for Paul

The Mercies of God Series

- God's work is of foremost importance and their house is provided to others as a place for the church to meet

PEOPLE OF EXTREME VALUE

⁶ Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did.

⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.

⁹ Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. Romans 16:6-9 (NLT)

PEOPLE OF EXTREME VALUE

¹⁰ Greet Apelles, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus.

¹¹ Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus.

¹² Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord.

¹³ Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me. Romans 16:10-13 (NLT)

PEOPLE OF EXTREME VALUE

¹⁴ Give my greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them.

¹⁵ Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers who meet with them.

¹⁶ Greet each other in Christian love. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings. Romans 16:14-16 (NLT)

DANGEROUS PEOPLE

¹⁷ And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. ¹⁸ Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. Romans 16:17-18 (NLT)

OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD AFFIRMED

¹⁹ But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. Romans 16:19-20 (NLT)

FURTHER CONNECTIONS

The Mercies of God Series

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews. ²² I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers. ²³ Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.
Romans 16:21-23 (NLT)

GOOD NEWS

²⁵ Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. Romans 16:25 (NLT)

GLORY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS FOREVER

²⁶ But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him.

²⁷ All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

Romans 16:26-27 (NLT)

GOOD NEWS! GOD DOES SEE WHAT IS AHEAD FOR US

How long must this land mourn? Even the grass in the fields has withered. The wild animals and birds have disappeared because of the evil in the land. For the people have said, "The LORD doesn't see what's ahead for us!" Jeremiah 12:4 (NLT)

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS GOING ON

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. Romans 8:35-37 (NLT)

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

So...

Does God have the greatest value in your relationships? In the way you use your house? In the risks you take in life?

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”
Romans 1:16-17 (NLT)

GLORY TO GOD THROUGH JESUS FOREVER

The Mercies of God Series The Book of Romans Completed