

The First-Century Church
"The Church in Rome"

Introduction:

1. We have been studying information in the New Testament that was written "about" as well as "to" various congregations in the first century.
2. Our purpose for studying this information is to help us know the Lord's will for His church today.
3. We are concluding this series of lessons by examining several matters addressed in Romans, the letter that the apostle Paul wrote "to" the church in Rome.

Discussion:

- I. LET US MAKE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM PAUL'S PERSONAL GREETINGS IN CHAPTER 16 IN WHICH HE USED THE WORDS "*CHURCH*" AND "*CHURCHES*"
 - A. (vs.1-2) Paul commended Phebe, "*a servant of the church.*"
 - B. (vs.3-5) Paul extended a greeting to Priscilla and Aquila.
 1. (vs.4b) "*The churches of the Gentiles*" were grateful for their service.
 2. (vs.5) A church was in their home (1 Corinthians 16:19).
 - C. (vs.16) Paul extended a salutation from "*the churches of Christ.*"
 1. This expression does not exalt a man, a doctrine, or a practice.
 2. Rather, it exalts Christ, who:
 - a. purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28)
 - b. is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - c. knows what takes place in the church (Revelation 1:12-13, 20; 2:1).
 - D. (vs.23) Paul extended a salutation from Gaius who was his host, "*and of the whole church.*"
 - E. These verses that contain "*church*" and "*churches*" emphasize the importance of certain responsibilities that are to be fulfilled by members of the church, including:
 1. respect for Christ in the church (Colossians 1:18)
 2. love in the church (John 13:34-35)
 3. service in the church (Galatians 5:13).
- II. PAUL DISCUSSED SOME ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHAPTERS 12-13 THAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH
 - A. Earlier, Paul showed how a person gets into Christ (6:3-4).
 - B. Those who have become members of the church by being baptized into Christ have responsibilities to:
 1. God: be consecrated to Him and not conformed to the world (12:1-2)
 2. self: not to be conceited (12:3)
 3. the body (the church): use our individual gifts (12:4-8)
 4. other Christians (12:9-13, 15-16)
 5. enemies (12:14, 17-21)
 6. the State (13:1-7)
 7. neighbors (13:8-14).
 - C. These verses that reveal several responsibilities given to members of the church emphasize the importance of obeying the 2 greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).