

A Galaxy Of Stars Without A Superstar

Romans 16

Phoebe, the servant, 1-2

“The word ‘servant’ is the Greek term in feminine form that is used of deacons in the New Testament literature. Many biblical scholars believe there was a female order of deacons in the first century. Among those in our own heritage who have subscribed to this view are Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott, Moses Lard, and Robert Milligan.”

If Phoebe is a deaconess: 13:4; 15:8

*What qualifications? _____ ?

*Women cannot lead men, 1 Tim.2:12

*Men *serve* this church, but not as *deacons*. (Ga.5:13)

*If deaconesses were so pervasive, why did Paul not greet them (Ph.1:1)?

*Men were charged with work of helping needy widows (Ac.6)

Receive her, 2

Urged Romans to receive her *in manner worthy of saints* –

*as saints should . . . Or

*as one worthy of high honor; Ph.2:29–

‘Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem’

Servant of the church, 1

Paul did not set Phoebe above others

Urged Romans to receive her as a servant

- Mt.20:20...
- Paul calls Phoebe 'servant' and encourages church to serve her as well – a letter of recommendation

Cenchrea



Corinth and Cenchrea



Assist her, 2

‘Stand by, help her’

Ro.16, nine women. What can they do?

*Visit, feed sick Ac.9:36; 1 T.5:10

*Open home for prayer, study,
Ac.12:12

*Go where men cannot, Ph.4:3

*Help husband qualify for elder, 1 T.3

*Teach women, children, Tit.2:3-6

*Show hospitality, Hb.13:2

Helper of many

Paul was indebted to her (2)

‘Helper’

- ▶ **Spouse**, Gn.2:18
- ▶ **Lord**, Hb.13:6
- ▶ **Phoebe**, Ro.16:2

Active in helping. Caring for others;
aiding them with her resources.

Priscilla & Aquila, The Brave, 3-5a

Fellow-workers (3), not in tents but teaching (Ac.18:26)

No evidence Aquila preached, but...

We need private teachers too

*Corinth, Ac.18:3

*Ephesus, Ac.18:18-21

*Rome, Ro.16:3-5

*Ephesus, 2 Tim.4:19

Priscilla & Aquila, The Brave, 3-5a

Fellow-workers (3), not in tents but teaching (Ac.18:26)

Risked necks for Paul (4)

Lay down neck = lay head on block to be cut off with an axe. [Acts 19?]

Paul reveals it

Paul's *Romans, Gal., Prison Epistles, Tim. / Tit.* 1 Jn.3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

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Church in their house, 5

Not to boast, but to serve

Epainetus, The First, 5b

Firstfruits of Achaia. ASV et al.: *Asia.*

Stephanas, first *family* of *Achaia*
(1 Co.16:15)

Paul thought highly of Epainetus

He did not misuse his 'seniority' to
become a Diotrephes

Mary, The Worker, 6

(Compare v. 12)

We know one thing about her:

¹She labored . . . ²Much . . . ³For us

Lord knows what she did

Some think only about what they 'get'
out of it

Rv.14:13

Rufus, The Sharer, 13

Son of Simon, Mk.15:21?

Mark wrote few years after Romans

Refers to this family; expects Romans to know the sons

If so, Simon bore Jesus' cross, voluntarily took up his own cross, dedicated his life and family to Lord

Paul's family would have rejected him

Mt.12:47-50. Mk.10:30

Gaius, The Host, 23

Noted for his hospitality.

His house was Paul's home. 3 Jn.5-8

False brethren betrayed Paul, 2 Co.

11:26

Erastus, The Noble, 23

1 Co.1:26, not many...

Treasurer – a city-manager



Erastus, The Noble, 23

Mentioned in Ac.19:22; 2 Tim.4:20?

His important job did not interfere with his service to God

Mt.6:33

Some don't have time
to go to heaven

1. All Scripture is relevant

‘Who wants to hear a list of names?’

We learn from approved examples –
encourages us to do better

Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her – Mk.14:9.

2. Ordinary people can do extraordinary things

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can”

We also can be a good example

Mt.5:13-16

3. They didn't know Paul
would call their names

We know God always watches us

Most important list of names:

Book of Life

4. Paul was busy, yet
remembered twenty-six names

Greet = 17 times in vv.3-16

Christians are *warm*

Be **kindly affectionate** to one another with
brotherly love, in honor giving preference
to one another – Romans 12:10

Loving dearly (family affection)