**LET’S BE A PHEBE**

**Romans 16:1-2**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-16-1/) **I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:**

[**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-16-2/) **That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*In our text, Paul says, “I commend unto you Phebe our sister. . .” The word, “commend” means to introduce. Paul is introducing Phebe with the highest approval and recommendations to the church in Rome.**

**\*\*Today, I want to introduce you to Phebe with the highest approval and recommendations that Paul gave, and I want to encourage you to be a Phebe today!**

**\*\*Her name, Phebe, means radiant and bright. She is a person who radiates brightness and a glow of the Spirit of the Lord which means she shows holiness and dedication! That’s a good reason right there to be a Phebe!**

 **1. Phebe was a Servant of the Christ!**

 **2. Phebe was a Servant of the Church!**

**\*\*So let’s look at how Paul described Phebe, and let’s make up our heads and our hearts that were going to be like Phebe!**

**I. PHEBE WAS A SAINT**

 **A. Notice the Relationship**

**\*\*Paul told the Roman church that Phebe is “our sister.” That means she is a saint of God; a sister in Christ!**

 **1. Paul said that Phebe is a Relative of our Family**

 **a. She is a Sister in Christ.**

 **b. She is a Sibling in Christ.**

 **2. Paul said that Phebe is a Relative of our Father**

**\*\*Paul said that she is a “servant of the church.”**

 **a. That means she Loved Church.**

 **b. That means she Loved Christ.**

**\*\*So far so good! It sounds like we need to be like Phebe!**

 **B. Notice the Receiving**

**Romans 16:2a That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints,**

**\*\*Paul says . . .**

 **1. Accept Her as a Sister**

**\*\*We need to accept our brothers and sisters in Christ!**

 **2. Appreciate Her as a Saint**

 **3. Assist Her as a Servant**

**Romans 16:2b assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you:**

**\*\*The word “assist” means to take one’s place besides another to offer help!**

**\*\*Wouldn’t it be a blessing if more Christians would accept other Christians and assist one another in the work of the Lord?**

**\*\*My point is that Phebe had proven herself to Paul to be a saint, and we need to be a Phebe so that our work for the Lord is proof that we are the Lord’s servant that can be recommended by the church, by the clergy, and by Christ!**

**II. PHEBE WAS A SERVANT**

**Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:**

**\*\*Let me define what it meant for Phebe to be a servant.**

**\*\*The Greek word for Servant is Diakonos (D ah konos) and it has several meanings or definitions. Here is the break-down of the meaning . . .**

 **A. Phebe was a Preparer**

**\*\*In other words, she made sure things got prepared for the service and for the church. She’s a worker and the definition says that she does it by “raising dust in hastening!” She’s not only a worker, but she’s quick!**

 **1. She executed the plans of her Master (Christ)**

 **2. She executed the plans of her Minister (Clergy)**

**\*\*Oh how we need more people who are Phebe’s that will work and prepare and execute the plans of God and of**

**God’s man!**

 **B. Phebe was a Prop**

**\*\*Paul basically said, “I know what kind of servant she is because I’ve seen her in action serving many and even serving me!” The definition of servant even uses the word, “waitress.”**

 **1. She props up the People of the Church**

**\*\*She doesn’t mind Serving Food and Sweeping Floors!**

 **2. She props up the Poor of the Church**

 **3. She props up the Puny of the Church**

**\*\*Let me encourage you to be a Phebe today and prop up some of the poor and puny people in the church!**

 **C. Phebe was a Professor**

**\*\*The definition of servant even indicated being a teacher.**

 **1. She Instructs and Teaches God’s Word**

 **2. She Informs and Teaches God’s Word**

**\*\*Let’s be a Phebe that is a servant for the Lord!**

**III. PHEBE WAS A SUCCOURER**

**\*\*The Greek word for Succourer is Prostatis (Pros Ta Tis) and it means a female guardian or protector of others who cared for or aided them with her resources. It means to come to another person’s assistance.**

**\*\*I see three things that Phebe gave as a Succourer.**

 **A. She gave of her Talent**

**\*\*Let’s be a Phebe and learn this lesson . . .**

 **1. Give your talent when there is a Use**

 **a. Give what you are Gifted at.**

 **b. Give what you are Good at.**

**\*\*Phebe was good and gifted at helping people, and she used it for the glory of God!**

 **2. Give your talent when there is an Urgency.**

**a. When there was a Shortage, she filled it with her talents.**

**b. When there was a Spot, she filled it with her talents.**

**\*\*Each of you have talents so use them for the glory of God and fill in the shortages and the spots, and DO NOT create shortages and spots that will have to be filled!**

**\*\*I’ve never seen in God’s word where anyone had to step away and make a spot for another to do work that was needed.**

 **B. She gave of her Time**

**\*\*Paul said, “for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.”**

**\*\*That tells me she spent a lot of time succouring!**

**Illustration: It has been said that you can give money, and you can earn back that money. You can give possessions, and you can buy more. However, when you give your time, it is said that you can never get it back. I disagree with that. As a Christian when you give your time, you do get it back. It’s not called time though. It’s called eternity!**

**\*\*Like Phebe, you need to dedicate your time to your . . .**

 **1. Position in the Church**

 **2. People in the Church**

**\*\*We live in busy times, and I’m convinced that one of the devil’s tools is to try to take as much of your time as he can of yours away from the Lord and His work. However, there are some things that you can say, “no” to so you can make sure you dedicate time to your church pew, to your church place, and to your church position.**

 **C. She gave of her Tenderness**

**\*\*Why is Phebe willing to tenderly give and give and give?**

 **1. She is concerned about the Work.**

 **a. She’s concerned about the Process of the Work.**

 **b. She’s concerned about the Protection of the Work.**

 **c. She’s concerned about the Progress of the Work.**

 **2. She is concerned about the Well-being.**

 **a. The Well-being of the Faith**

 **b. The Well-being of the Family**

 **c. The Well-being of the Friends**

 **d. The Well-being of the Future**

**\*\*We should be doing things to help the church because (understand the reason here) because we want to see the Work of Christ and the Well-being of the Church to go on for the glory of God! Any other reason is in vain!**

**\*\*Phebe had the right reasons for being a servant and a succourer. Make sure your reasons are right!**

**\*\*Let’s be a Phebe and do it all for the glory of God and for the right reasons!**

**CLOSE**

**1. I am so glad that in our church there are many people that I can salute and highly recommend!**

 **a. We have Phebe’s who are Saints. (They love Christ and the Church and their work shows it.)**

 **b. We have Phebe’s who are Servants. (They hold positions in the church and work hard at it. They are willing to pick up the slack wherever it’s needed. There’s not an officer or a Sunday School teacher I would want to see give up their post! Keep doing it for the glory of God!)**

 **c. We have Phebe’s who are Succourers. (They come to the assistance of others inside the church and outside the church. They feed people, and they visit people. They send cards, and they make phone calls. They help financially when a real need is presented.)**

**2. Like Paul, I salute every Phebe we have in the church! Don’t quit what you are doing. Keep being a Phebe!**

**3. If you have heard this message and have felt like giving up on being a Phebe, you should come and give it to God.**

**4. If you feel like you lack in being a Phebe, then you should come and ask God to help you to be a Phebe! We need more Phebes.**

**5. If you are lost today, you can get saved, get in the family, and start living for God and being a Phebe!**