

God uses people

'suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him'

Saul's vision - a supernatural event

Saul's conversion – three courageous witnesses

Three people God used:

- **Martyr - Stephen**
- **Brother - Ananias**
- **Encourager - Barnabas**

God uses people

Paul wrote to people - churches, groups and individuals:

**Romans | 1 Corinthians | 2 Corinthians |
Galatians | Ephesians | Philippians | Colossians |
1 Thessalonians | 2 Thessalonians |
1 Timothy | 2 Timothy | Titus | Philemon**

God uses people

Paul wrote with people to people:

Romans – ‘Paul ...’

1 Corinthians – ‘Paul ... and our brother Sosthenes’

2 Corinthians – ‘Paul ... and Timothy our brother’

Galatians – ‘Paul ... and all the brothers and sisters with me’

Ephesians – ‘Paul ...’

Philippians – ‘Paul and Timothy ...’

Colossians – ‘Paul ... and Timothy our brother’

1 Thessalonians – ‘Paul, Silas and Timothy,’

2 Thessalonians - ‘Paul, Silas and Timothy,’

1 Timothy - ‘Paul ...’

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Titus – ‘Paul ...’

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Romans

FROM: 'Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God ...'

Introduction: 1.1-17

Sin 'They': 1.18-32; 'You': 2.1 – 3.8; 'We': 3.9-20

Righteousness through faith, Abraham's and ours: 3.21 – 4.25

Peace, hope and life in Christ: 5.1 - 6.14

Serving a new master: 6.15 – 7.25

Life through the Spirit: 8.1-39

Where do the Jews fit in? 9.1 – 11.36

Design for living the Christian life: 12.1 – 15.13

Plans and Greetings: 15.14 – 16.27

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Romans

FROM: 'Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God ...'

Rom. 1.1

TO: 'To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: ...'

Rom 1.7

Who are the 'holy people'?

Romans 16.1-16

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Population of Rome around AD50: 1 million – largest city in the world

Roman emperors:

Augustus –AD14

Tiberius 14-37

Caligula 37-41

Claudius 41-54

Nero **54-68**

Vespasian 69-79

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I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. ...

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers ... Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, the first convert in Asia

Greet Mary ...

Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews ...

Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend ...

Greet Urbanus ... and my dear friend Stachys

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Greet Apelles ...

Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew.

Greet those in the household of Narcissus ... Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, women ...

Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman ...

Greet Rufus ... and his mother ...

Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them.

Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas ...

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What's in a name?

What's in your name?

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29 named people (including 'mother' and 'sister')

15 Greek names: Phoebe (bright, shining); Andronicus (victorious man); Stachys (**ear of corn**); Aristobulus (bravest); Herodion (heroic); Narcissus (**daffodil**); Tryphena & Tryphosa (delicate / gentle); Persis (victor); Asyncritus (incomparable); Hermes (boundary); Hermas (refuge); Philologus (learned); Nereus (water); Olympas (**heavenly**)

11 Latin names: Priscilla (venerable); Aquila (eagle); Epenetus (praiseworthy); Junia (youth); Ampliatus (**large**); Urbanus (citizen); Apelles (**exclusion**); Rufus (red-haired); Phlegon (zealous); Patrobas (follows father); Julia (young)

1 Hebrew name: Mary (wished-for)

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18 Men: Aquila, Epenetus, Andronicus, Ampliatus, Urbanus, Stachys, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion, Narcissus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, Philologus, Nereus

11 Women: Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, 'mother of Rufus', 'sister of Nereus', Julia, Olympas

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Religious background:

(At least) 6 Jewish Christians: Priscilla, Aquila, Mary, Andronicus, Junia, Herodion

(Not more than) 23 Gentile Christians: Phoebe, Epenetus, Ampliatus, Urbanus, Stachys, Apelles, Aristobulus, Narcissus, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, Rufus, 'mother of Rufus', Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, Philologus, Julia, Nereus, 'sister of Nereus', Olympas

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Family relationships:

- **Husband and wife: Priscilla and Aquila, Andronicus and Junia**
- **Mother and son: Rufus and mother**
- **(Twin) sisters: Tryphena and Tryphosa**

Different roles:

- **“Full-time workers”:** Phoebe, Andronicus and Junia, Urbanus
- **House-group church leaders:** Priscilla and Aquila, Aristobulus, Narcissus, Hermas, Olympas
- **‘hard workers’:** Mary, Tryphena and Tryphosa, Persis – all women

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The Christians of Rome, believers whom Paul knew:

- **Varied backgrounds: names derived from three languages**
- **At least 40% women**
- **Jewish and Gentile Christians, living and worshipping together**
- **High and low rank: aristocrats, business people, slaves**
- **Family relationships are important**
- **Many different roles**

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Application:

The Christians of Rome, believers whom Paul knew, are people just like us, living, working, worshipping, witnessing in a city of 1 million people.

Be encouraged!