

God’s Nobodies Are Somebodies

Romans 16:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We all know people who are “nobodies.”
 - 1. I do not mean that disrespectfully.
 - 2. These are people who are not widely known or famous.
 - 3. In fact, most of us would consider ourselves to be nobodies.
- B. Lesson Text: **Romans 16:1-16**
 - 1. 27 individuals are mentioned.
 - 2. 19 men are mentioned.
 - 3. 8 women are mentioned.
 - 4. 3 relatives of Paul are mentioned.
 - 5. 3 households are mentioned.
 - 6. 1 congregation is mentioned.
 - 7. Verses 5, 7, 11, 13 reveal some interesting facts as well.
- C. In Romans 16:1-16 we have a list of people who were greeted by the Apostle Paul as he finished the letter to the Romans.
 - 1. There are people who Paul knew and loved, and who were fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - 2. We do not know much about these people, who might be considered by most a list of nobodies. However, like us today, although these people may appear to be insignificant, but they are not. What can we learn about being a “nobody” from these people?

THEY WERE INDIVIDUALS

- A. Each one of these was a name, not a number.
- B. Each one of them was unique from the others. Even identical twins are not identical.
- C. Each one was an individual, whose name was written out not only in the Bible, but in the Lamb’s Book of life. Revelation 20:15
- D. Each one was an individual who was “accepted in the beloved”. **Ephesians 1:6** – “To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

THEY WERE IMPORTANT

- A. Each person was a child of God. **John 1:12** – “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
- B. Each person had realms of influence such as work, business, home, school, church etc.

- C. Each person was a part of the body of Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:13** – “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”
- D. Each person had a Spiritual gift to be used for God’s glory.
1. **Romans 12:3-8** – “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
 - 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,
 - 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
 - 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.
 - 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;
 - 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”
 2. **1 Peter 4:10-11** – “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”
- E. Each person had been called to do good works. **Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- F. Each person had been called to do their best. **Colossians 3:17, 23** – “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,”

THEY WERE IMMORTAL

- A. They had everlasting life. **John 3:16** – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- B. They would ever be with the Lord. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17** – “Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.
- 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

C. They were citizens of the New Jerusalem John wrote about in Revelation 21:1-8.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Like each of these precious names of Christians in Romans 16
1. You are precious too.
 2. You are a somebody unique from every other person.
 3. As a Christian your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.
 4. You are accepted to the Father because you are in Christ . . . In the Beloved.
 5. You are a child of God . . . A member in the family of God . . A brother or sister to all other Christians everywhere.
 6. You have an invaluable influence wherever you are and wherever you go.
 7. You are a part of the body of Christ . . . The body He died for by purchasing it with His own blood . . . You are a part of His Church.
 8. You have abilities God has given to you to use for Him in this life.
 9. You are called to do good works and to do your best every day for your Lord and Master.
 10. You have everlasting life.
 - a. You are going to live with God.
 - b. You are going to live with God forever when your earthly journey is completed.
 - c. You are going to be a part of all that God has prepared for His people in Heaven and for all eternity.
 - d. God is preparing His best for you in Heaven because you are His best here on the earth.
 1. You believed Him!
 2. You believed His written words!
 3. You believed Jesus was His Son!
 4. You developed an obedient faith and acted on that faith when you obeyed the Gospel!
 5. You are forgiven . . . cleansed . . . redeemed . . . sanctified . . . And Saved from all your past sins.

6. You are loved by your Heavenly Father . . . You are loved by your Savior . . . You are helped by the very Holy Spirit of God.

B. Your name may not be written in Romans 16 . . . But it is indeed written in a very special place.

C. Indeed . . . You are **not** a nobody to God . . .

1. To Him you are more valuable than the whole world

2. Because of that, He is preparing for you to come home after a while.

3. Have a wonderful eternity with Him!

D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**