

Reflection Questions: What am I doing to welcome other Christians into my life? What am I doing to reach out and get others involved in the ministries I serve in?

God has given and preserved His Word for me. What am I doing to study, understand, apply, and obey it?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



Message #131: A Gallery of Grace

January 14, 2018

Sermon
Notes

Quotes to Ponder

It is easy to read the New Testament and gloss over the many names of individuals who contributed to the spread of the gospel and the building of the church in the first century. The temptation now is the same as it was then, to think that history will not record or remember what we do for Christ in our corner of the Kingdom. That is correct—"history" will know little and care less of what the average believer does in his life of faith. The faithful first century men and women who, in the midst of the same fears, testings, limitations, and insecurities that we face, continued to build the church, did so not in hopes of finding their names on the pages of history. They did it because they were faithful, and because their names were already written on far more important pages than those of history (Revelation 21:27).

Ken Boa and William Kruidenier

The only way to stop being alone is to welcome others into your life and the responsibilities and ministries where you serve. Welcome others into your life and what's going on in it.

The Old Testament and New Testament documents were recognized as authentic in their times because God proved His spokesman in those times by miracles or fulfilled prophecies or other work. So even the church councils in history were not the final decision makers of what belonged and what did not. They were merely affirming what was proven and recognized as they discussed the few questions that may have been raised.

Mark Vaughan

God wants to form people transformed by the gospel into communities that reflect the values of the gospel. Vertical reconciliation with God must lead to horizontal reconciliation with one another.

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. Why do you suppose these eight men in *Romans 16:21-23* send greetings to the Roman church?
3. What do these verses tell us about Timothy? What characteristics did he have they we should work on?
1 Corinthians 4:17 —

Philippians 2:19-23 —
4. We don't often think of Timothy as being a writer of Scripture, but what do the following verses say?
2 Corinthians 1:1 — *1 Thessalonians 1:1* —

Philippians 1:1 — *2 Thessalonians 1:1* —

Colossians 1:1 — *Philemon 1:1* —
5. What does *Luke 13:1-3* possibly tell us about the Lucius mentioned in *Romans 16:21*?
6. What does *Acts 17:5-9* possibly tell us about the Jason mentioned in *Romans 16:21*?
7. What does *Acts 20:3-4* possibly tell us about the Sosipater mentioned in *Romans 16:21*?
8. Why does Tertius claim to write this letter (*Romans 16:22*) when we've been saying Paul wrote it?
9. Why might have Paul used an amanuensis?
10. According to the following verses, does this seem like his common practice?
1 Corinthians 16:21 — *2 Thessalonians 3:17* —

Galatians 6:11 — *Philemon 19* —

Colossians 4:18 —
11. What does *1 Corinthians 1:14* possibly tell us about the Gaius mentioned in *Romans 16:23*?
12. What do we know of Erastus and Quartus mentioned in *Romans 16:23*?
13. Why is *Romans 16:24* in parenthesis in many of our translations of Scripture (cf. *Mark 16:9-20; Acts 8:37*)?
14. Does this make all portions of our translations of Scripture open to dispute about what is really God's Word?
15. Is *Romans 16:24* true even if it wasn't in the original letter to the Romans?