



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, May 8, 2022

Romans 16:1-16, 21-24 – Naming Names

Paul greets or commends more than 35 people in Romans 16. The Bible contains many lists of names. Although the meanings of names, especially in the Old Testament, are significant the more important consideration for the modern reader of the Bible is the message that the listing of these names convey. These named individuals in the Bible help us to learn more about God and his plans for humanity.

These names are of real people.

Paul's list of names includes many women in leadership and service.

There are many more names to add in the Book of Life.

We respond and apply the word of God by praying and acting to extend the list of names in the Book of Life.

May the Lord cause you to be glad and rejoice, to give honor to him because you have been made ready for the marriage of the Lamb. May you be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, the righteousness of saints. May you be blessed to be called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. May the Lord Jesus testify of you, "They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels." (Revelation 19:7-9, 3:4-5)

Discussion Questions:

- What does God changing Abram's name to Abraham tell us of the importance of names in the Bible?
- Why is it important to know that the people listed in the Bible were real people? How do the details of their lives help us to relate to them?
- What do we learn about the nature of God from the lists of biblical names, particularly in the genealogy of Jesus?
- Why is it significant that almost a third of the names Paul lists in Romans 16 are women? What do we learn from these women?
- What is the Book of Life? Why is it important to God?
- How is your name written in the Book of Life?
- What does it mean for a church's outreach to not be about adding names to the church's membership list but for God to add names to the Book of Life?
- What can we do to extend the list of names in the Book of Life?