

Romans 16:6-8

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/rom/rom-16/romans-166-8/>

Paul continues listing believers who have served Christ well, he wants the Roman believers to greet them. Likely these believers would be primary allies to contend for Paul's gospel of grace against the competing Jewish "authorities".

Paul asks that the Gentile believers *greet Mary, who has worked hard for you*. It is not clear what Mary did besides having *worked hard* for the Romans believers. Some Greek manuscripts recorded this name as Mariam, the Hebrew form of Mary, which would indicate that this woman was Jewish.

We read in Romans 12:10-13:

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

Christians who are living as God desires will help each other and "toil" for one another. Serving each other and meeting needs is not always easy and could often be described as hard work.

Paul sends greetings to *Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me*. It is also not known who Andronicus and Junias were. They could have been husband and wife as Junias can be masculine or feminine. "My kinsmen" is likely a term that means they are the same nationality rather than a reference to being related. This would indicate that although the Roman church was predominantly Gentile, there were some Jewish members. It would be very helpful to Paul's defense against the competing Jewish "authorities" seeking to overturn the gospel of grace, to have some Jewish believers that take his side. Although we do not know much about the listed people in this chapter, it seems likely that these would have been the key leaders who would take up the fight and contend for the gospel of grace. Had there not been allies who took Paul's side, it seems unlikely Paul's letter to the Romans would have survived.

It is not known where or when Andronicus and Junias were in prison with Paul, but he and all the apostles evidently thought very highly of them. When Paul says they were "in Christ before me," he means that they became believers before him. Paul says to *greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord*. We also do not know much about Ampliatus, but Paul called him his "beloved in the Lord" which shows Paul's love and admiration for him.

Biblical Text

⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.