

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER
1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York
716-773-3748 www.bfcgi.org

THE LORD'S DAY
May 31, 2015 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Wendy Baldwin
Piano Joanne Lorenzo
Announcements Ron Mock

MEDITATION

Romans 16:5-9 (below and on opposite page)

Scripture Reading and Prayer		Psalm 115
Hymn 693	“A Shelter in the Time of Storm”	
Pastoral Prayer		
Hymn 630	“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”	
Message	SOURCE OF WISDOM	
	James 3:13-18	Pastor Cal VanderMey
Hymn 329	“There is Power in the Blood”	Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

⁵ Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who labored much for us. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up
Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm- Ernie Beck
Precept study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Wendy Baldwin
Wednesday Bible study at 9:30am with Jim O'Rourke
Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. - Margaret Was
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!

Sunday messages are available on CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

Epaphroditus is called “beloved” as is Amplias in verse 8, Stachys in verse 9, and Persis in verse 12. Epaphroditus is said in the text to be the first fruits of Achaia to Christ. That means that he was the first convert to Christ from that region. Commentators and translators disagree about the location, which in Greek is just a letter different from Asia. The most ancient manuscripts of the New Testament have Asia (Asia Minor which is today Turkey) instead of Achaia (which today is lower Greece). Lydia is considered the first convert in Greece according to Acts 16, and thus the majority affirm Asia.

In verse 6, Paul urges them to “greet Mary” (a Jewish name) who bestowed much labor on Paul.

According to verse 7, Paul remembers certain “kinsmen” who would in the context be Jews probably of the same tribe as the Apostle Paul—the tribe of Benjamin. For several decades in the 20th century there existed a cult that followed the British Israelite idea—that people from Britain make up the “ten lost tribes.” They claim that the tribes—except Judah—were carted up to Britain after the dispersion out of Israel in 722 BC (by the Assyrians). Although there is no evidence for this—just legends—the cult succeeded and even founded “Ambassador College” in Pasadena, California. Many in the cult returned to orthodoxy at the end of the 20th century, largely through the influence of the Bible Answer Man program. The New Testament never says that the tribes were lost. We have at the beginning of the New Testament an 84 year old lady named Anna who was from the tribe of Asher. Then, we have Paul from the tribe of Benjamin, and now here a reference to Paul seeing others who were from his tribe. The tribes were not lost.

Andronicus and Junia were fellow prisoners, meaning that they had suffered imprisonment with the Apostle Paul at some point for their faith. Now they are in the church at Rome. A little personal detail also appears in this verse 7—they were Christians before Paul became a Christian.

Verses 8 and 9 record two names, Amplias and Urbanus, both very common servant names, found in the archaeological inscriptions of the city of Rome and Corinth. Thus there were servants among those in the church of Rome.