

Title: **"PHOEBE-A SERVANT OF THE CHURCH"**

Text: **Romans 16:1-2**

(I) COMMENDATION OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN SERVANTS OF GOD

- 1. Both are commended**
- 2. Majority are men**
- 3. Mention of minority women would thus be significant**

(II) PHOEBE- AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE

"I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea" Romans 16:1a

- 1. Phoebe- mentioned by name**
- 2. Phoebe-mentioned by "title"**
 - a) A servant of the church
 - b) Literally "a deacon of the church"

(III) PICTURE OF THE WORK OF PHOEBE

"...she has been a helper of many and of myself also." Romans 16:2c

- 1. The word "helper" (NKJV) says less than it could have**
- 2. The word has wide possible application (prostates)**
 - a) A leader
 - b) A champion
 - c) A protector
 - d) A patron
- 3. The recipients of Phoebe's patronage**
 - a) Many
 - b) Paul included

(IV) PROPOSED RECEPTION OF PHOEBE

"That you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you..." Romans 16:2

1. To be received

- a) In the Lord
- b) In a manner worthy of the saints
 - i) Phoebe recognized as a "saint"
 - ii) She has demonstrated qualities that may her outstanding

2. To be assisted

- a) Literally "to stand by her" (parastete)
- b) Depending on her "needs"

(V) A SPECIAL CHALLENGE TO ALL LADIES

1. Inspiration of Phoebe

2. Aspiration to emulate her example