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Valley Church

March 16 & 19, 2023  
Week 41 – Attitude of Gratitude (Rom. 16:1-16)

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### Introduction:

Romans 16:1-16

### Be Thankful for People Who Have:

1. Taken \_\_\_\_\_ for you  
**Rom. 16:1-2**

(Phoebe carrying the letter of Romans into hostile territory, along a treacherous journey from Corinth)

2. Made a personal \_\_\_\_\_ in you  
**Rom. 16:3-4**

(Priscilla and Aquila providing housing for Paul and opening their homes for the purpose of planting more churches)

3. Allowed you to \_\_\_\_\_ in them  
**Rom. 16:5**

(Epaenetus was Paul's first convert in Asia Minor, opening his heart to the gospel through Paul's ministry)

4. Endured through \_\_\_\_\_ with you  
**Rom. 16:6-7**

(Andronicus and Junia serving a prison sentence with Paul as they suffered persecution together)

### The Big Idea:

There are no self-made people. We are all shaped by relationship with God and others. Thankfulness is a central element of following Jesus. As His disciple, there are countless reasons to be thankful – and the people who have shaped us in a positive way are on that long list!

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Describe briefly your first best friend.
2. What "old friends" do you keep in touch with? Why? How often?
3. As 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans, we live with such an individualistic mind-set much of the time. We often enjoy the illusion of being "self-made." And yet, when we get honest, we've all benefited from someone else's investment. Talk about one or two people whose investment in your life helped shape the person you are today.

### **Ponderings:**

4. People like Phoebe, Priscilla and Aquila risked their comfort and safety for Paul (Rom. 16:1-4). Think back to a time when someone took a risk on you. How did that risk alter your life for the better?
5. Not only have others invested in you at some point, but you have also invested in others. Share about a time when you invested in someone and the fruit of that investment was not immediate, but showed up sometime later. What joy did you receive from that investment? Explain.
6. Paul seemed to live with a conscious understanding of his deep need for others in the Body of Christ. Would you say that you live with a similar level of admission of this need? Why or why not? What factors play into your answer?
7. Enduring crisis together is one of the most powerful forces in deepening intimacy. If you are willing, share about a crisis that you endured with someone else which made you closer than you ever thought it would.

### **Promptings:**

8. During the message, you were encouraged to write a note to at least one person relevant to each of the four points expressing thanks for their presence in your life. Have you done that yet? Will you?