

Colossians 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

Analysis

Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. Paul sends greetings to Laodicean Christians seven miles from Colossae. "The brethren which are in Laodicea" likely formed house church or multiple house churches. "Nymphas" is individual believer (name's gender is uncertain—could be male Nymphas or female Nympha depending on manuscript tradition). "The church which is in his house" (tēn kat' oikon autou ekklēsia, τὴν κατ' οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἐκκλησίαν) indicates congregation meeting in this person's home.

House churches characterized early Christianity—believers lacked dedicated buildings and met in members' homes, typically the wealthiest member large enough to accommodate congregation. This created intimate, family-like fellowship but limited size (perhaps 30-50 people maximum per house church). House church pattern continued for three centuries until Christianity gained legal status and constructed buildings.

Historical Context

Roman houses of wealthy featured open courtyards or large dining rooms accommodating extended household and guests. Christians utilized these spaces for worship, teaching, and fellowship. House churches faced persecution risk—if authorities discovered illegal assembly, host faced property confiscation or worse.

Nymphas's willingness to host church demonstrated commitment and courage, providing essential infrastructure for early Christian community.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your home serve the church—hospitality, Bible studies, fellowship, or merely private space?
2. What risks or costs are you willing to bear for church community like early house church hosts?
3. How can modern churches recapture intimate, family-like fellowship of house church model?

Interlinear Text

Ἀσπάσασθε	τοὺς	ἐν	Λαοδικεΐα	ἀδελφοὺς	καὶ	
Salute	G3588	which are in	Laodicea	the brethren	and	
G782		G1722	G2993	G80	G2532	
Νύμφαν	καὶ	τὴν	κατ'	οἶκον	αὐτοῦ	ἐκκλησίαν
Nymphas	and	G3588	which is in	house	his	the church
G3564	G2532		G2596	G3624	G846	G1577

Additional Cross-References

Romans 16:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (Parallel theme): For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

