

# Romans 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.

## Analysis

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**Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them**—Aspasasthe Asynkriton, Phlegonta, Hermēn, Patroban, Hermān, kai tous syn autois adelphous (ἀσπάσασθε Ἀσύγκριτον, Φλέγοντα, Ἑρμῆν, Πατροβᾶν, Ἐρμᾶν, καὶ τοὺς σὺν αὐτοῖς ἀδελφούς). Five men grouped together suggest a house church: tous syn autois adelphous (the brothers with them) indicates a worshiping community. Unlike earlier verses with individual commendations, this group greeting implies Paul knew them less personally but honored their collective ministry.

## Historical Context

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All five names appear in imperial household inscriptions or as common slave names: Asyncritus ('incomparable'), Phlegon ('burning'), Hermas ('Mercury'), Patrobas (shortened from Patrobius, freedman of Nero), Hermes (god's name, very common). The clustering suggests a house church composed largely of slaves or freedmen. Early Christianity's appeal to lower classes was striking: no property, education, or status required—only faith. Yet these 'insignificant' believers bore witness in Rome's heart, perhaps eventually influencing higher-ups. Paul's greetings democratize honor: slave and senator, woman and man, Jew and Gentile—all equally valued in Christ.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does the clustering of five names suggest about house church structure and community in the early church?
2. How does Paul's greeting of humble believers (likely slaves) by name demonstrate the gospel's dignity for the marginalized?
3. What would it look like for your church to honor 'the brothers with them'—faithful communities of ordinary believers doing extraordinary gospel work?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀσπάσασθε Ἀσύγκριτον Φλέγοντα Ἐρμᾶν Πατροβᾶν

**Salute**

G782

**Asyngritis**

G799

**Phlegon**

G5393

**Hermas**

G2057

**Patrobas**

G3969

Ἐρμῆν καὶ τοὺς σὺν αὐτοῖς ἀδελφούς

**Hermes** **and**

G2060

G3588

**which are with**

G4862

**them**

G846

**the brethren**

G80

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