fresh garment, and a nourishing meal? Did Paul receive from her the empathy and tenderness that only a mother can give? We don't know this for sure, but it could explain his unusual greeting in today's text.

I believe that God has given mothers a unique capacity for showing gentleness and compassion, and for influencing the spiritual direction of children. Let's be thankful for our mothers and for those who have been like a mother to us. -HVL

> God has conferred on motherhood A true nobility, And she who gladly fills that role Can shape man's destiny. —DJD

## Nothing moves us like a mother's touch.



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## **A Mother's Touch**

Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. -Romans 16:13

A Christian who helps to place orphans in homes tells about a little



Russian boy named Ivan. He's a lovable child with fair hair. When he learned that he might be able to leave the orphanage, he said, "Please, will vou find me a mother?"

Fathers are important too, but there are times when nothing but a mother's touch will do. Even grown men need it.

The apostle Paul, probably in his fifties, sent special greetings to a fellow believer in Rome named Rufus. Interestingly, he added greetings to "his mother and mine" (Romans 16:13). Why would he refer to her in this way?

During his years of ministry, Paul faced many hardships (2 Corinthians 6:4-10). Could it be that Rufus had brought a weary and tired apostle to his house, where Paul received from the mother of Rufus comforting words, a

## Romans: Truth in a Nutshell (unzipped for you) Godly Models

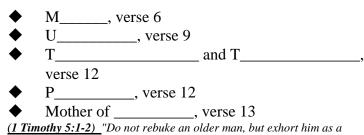
In Romans 16:1-16 the people mentioned are godly models in 4 aspects of Christian living:



**1.\_\_\_\_\_,** ♦ P\_\_\_\_\_, verses 1-2

(Acts 6:1-3) "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was

multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists.. (2) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. (3) "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;



*(a remove start)* Do not reduce an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, {2} older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity."

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2._____,

♦ A_____ and P_____, verses 3-4
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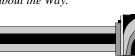
(Acts 18:1-3) "After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. [2] And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. [3] So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers."

(Acts 18:18-19) "So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of

the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. .... {19} And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; ...."

(Acts 19:23) "And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way."









(2 Corinthians 1:8) "For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life."

(2 Corinthians 10:18) "For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends." (James 1:12) "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3) "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, {3} remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ..."





