

Be On Guard!
2022-12-04

Romans 16:17-18

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

Today's relativistic, intolerantly tolerant society. no absolute truth= no right/wrong,.

- Teachers of false doctrine to flourish on internet, radio, bookstores.
 - Christians must be on guard against false teachers.

Not intellectual mistake/misspeak,...nor focus on non-essential with room for liberty.

- Core doctrines all true Christians must believe....undermine Jesus Christ's person/work.

deceive in truth/practice...legalism (works right) or license under grace. 1 Timothy 4:1-3

- seek turn Christian from self-sacrifice>self-service, self-denial>self-indulgence.

MASTER: own appetites/Satan NOT Jesus. Romans 16:17-18, Philippians 3:18, 1 Timothy 6:3, 2 Corinthians 11:14

- self-centered, self-exalting motives: power, fame, money, sinful physical gratify.

Method: smooth/flatter speech to deceive hearts.

- pleasant, plausible speech that presents itself as blessing.
 - Primarily not bludgeon to believe but seduce.....like Satan did with Eve.
 - deceive hearts = mind/emotions...know how manipulate feeling
- Usually nice, likeable tell what want to hear....very little negative like sin/judgment.
 - Often ridicule stand on biblical truth as mean, angry, dividers, unlove.
 - use bible verses (often out of context) and alter meaning of terms.

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Target: rarely pagans but usually naïve, unsuspecting, weak, new/immature/fleshly Christian who lack discernment. In context: doing well and not want fall. Romans 16:19a

- Result: disrupt harmony/unity by create divisions = damage to Jesus' name.

RESPONSE: Watch out ...all Christians not just elders. Romans 16:17a, 2 Timothy 1:13a, Acts 17:11

- Watchman on wall look out for enemy and sound alarm so ready for battle.
 - Look for false teaching either subtract from or to add to Bible

Must be experts in good and not even beginners in evil. Romans 16:19b, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Corinthians 14:20, Matthew 10:16,

“Three things there are which men never ought to trifle with—a little poison, a little false doctrine, and a little sin.” J. C. Ryle

- context “good” = sound doctrine “Evil” = corrupt doctrine of false teacher.
 - STUDY Word to know truth to discern false teaching and not easily fooled.
 - not edify study deeply unless targeting particular false religion.

- Scrutinize teaching to make sure measures up to biblical truth. Hebrews 5:12-14
 - Are you still on milk? Grow up! Repent includes action.

Avoid: dividing from false teacher godly/right/promotes unity. Romans 16:17b,

- not mean: Stop caring, praying for, talking to....but disrupt regular fellowship.

To spot false teacher have to know what to look for.....Difficult but not impossible.

- watch out, be wise/good, innocent/evil, avoid.....yet victory in God alone.

Romans 16:20

- ultimately God of peace/grace protect from falling prey to false teacher.

Grace keep faithful in doing good and victorious regarding evil.

- Imply Satan behind false teacher and his ultimate doom/end sealed.
 - God of peace, harmony, unity, right will prevail.
- For Jesus Christ it will be soon, for us it will be sudden. 2 Peter 3:3-4
 - Encourage in times seems evil upper hand and Satan controlling world.

Romans 16:17-18

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles (trap-stick i.e. bent sapling, snare) contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites (literally "bellies"), and by smooth (good, pleasant words, plausible) talk and flattery (literally *blessing*) they deceive the hearts of the naive. 19 For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent (pure. Used of undiluted wine and metal not weakened in any way) as to what is evil. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.