

"A Final Warning & Promise"  
Romans 16:17-20

**Paul's Warning In Context.**

Jesus & Paul understood that the Church will always struggle with division & attack from within.

1. *Jesus*: The Gospel causes division. Mt 10:34. False teachers will come. Mt 7:15-16; 24:5,24.
2. *Paul*: The Gospel causes division. I Cor 11:18-19. False teachers will come. Acts 20:28-30.

**Paul's Warning. Rom 16:17a**

1. The command: (σκοπεω, skopeo) keep your eye on, Be on the alert for, Watch out for.
2. Those who cause divisions.
  - ♦ They do so by introducing a slightly different Gospel (a false one)
  - ♦ They do so by presenting an unbalanced view of Christianity.
3. Those who put obstacles (σκανδαλον, skandalon) in others way
  - ♦ They do so by immoral behavior (Hence, scandal)
  - ♦ They do so by adding to the Gospel. Mt 23:4-5;13

**Paul's Test. Rom 16:17a**

1. The test: Whatever is contrary to (*along side of*) the teaching (lit. doctrine) you've received.
  - ♦ Whatever is contrary to the Apostolic faith & practice. Jude 1:3.
  - ♦ What ever is contrary to the historic conservative Protestant faith & life.
2. Some examples<sup>1</sup>:
  - ♦ *Special revelations*. Robert Tilton, Pat Robertson.
  - ♦ *We become little gods*. Paul Crouch, Casey Treat, Kenneth Hagin, Morris Cerullo
  - ♦ *Christ merely human*. Kenneth Copeland.
  - ♦ *A limited God*. Kenneth Copeland, Fred Price.
  - ♦ *A Gospel of Wealth*. Fred Price, Robert Tilton.

**Paul's Evaluation Of The False Teachers. Rom 16:18**

1. Their motivation (Cf. Phil 3:18-19; Jude 1:12-13):
  - ♦ They are slaves to their own appetite (financial gain, fame, or power over others)
  - ♦ They are angels of light. II Cor 11:14.
2. Their methodology:
  - ♦ They appear to be sincere in speech. *Smooth*.
  - ♦ They *flatter* their hearers. Their speech that is kind, loving, merciful, easy to bear.
  - ♦ They deceive the *unsuspecting* (I.E. the naive).

**Paul's Command. Rom 16:17b,19**

1. He calls us to turn away from them, stay away from them. II Jn 1:9-11
  - ♦ He does not call us to have heresy trials & burn the heretics.
  - ♦ He does not call us to debate them.
2. He calls us to be wise in what is *good & innocent* (lit. pure) in what is evil. Cf. Mt 10:16-17.

**God's Promise. Rom 16:20**

1. This looks back at the beginning when the 1st Gospel was given after the Fall. Gen 3:1-5; 15
  - ♦ Satan tempted them: (1) not to believe God & (2) the knowledge of good & evil
  - ♦ The result of the fall: a continual enmity between Satan & God's people.
2. Satan will soon be crushed under your feet. Gen 3:1-5; 15
  - ♦ The *God* of peace will crush him. *He* is the One who does it. He est.'s *peace*.
  - ♦ Satan will be crushed *under your feet*. Thru the Gospel (Rev 12:11) & holy living.
  - ♦ It will happen *soon*. It occurs now through Gospel faith & Gospel living.

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<sup>1</sup>See Michael Horton, *The Agony of Deceit*, pp. 39,45,91,112,114. And see Hank Hanegraaff, *Christianity in Crisis*, pp. 11,65,85,186,191.