

Romans 16:19-24

Deceptions, Evil, and Satan

1. 16:17-18 – A Serious Warning

- a. After laying his doctrinal foundation of the gospel of Christ, he warns against error.
- b. 16:17 - When division is caused by contrary doctrine, mark & avoid (separate) the teacher
- c. 16:18 – For the sake of 1) truth, 2) Jesus Christ, and 3) others who can be ensnared
- d. Apparently, deception and error are greater problems in the church than division.
- e. Paul gave this warning repeatedly - Acts 20:27-35 (beware of wolves, deception, the weak)
- f. Being deceived by your own heart was a warning under the law - Deu 11:16, Jer 17:9
- g. A warning under grace, too - 1 Cor 3:18, 6:9, Gal 6:7, Eph 5:6, 2 Thes 2:3, 2 Tim 3:13+

2. 16:19 – Their Obedience

- a. *“your obedience”* - in obeying the truth from the heart - Gal 3:1, Rom 6:17, 1:5-8
- b. *“I am glad ... on your behalf”* - Their salvation, reception of truth, benefits them.
- c. *“but yet I would...”* - Believing the truth is good, but judgment excels - Phi 1:9-10
- d. *“wise unto ... good”* - skilled, knowledgeable, learned, exercised, ability to judge - Heb 5:14
- e. Having truth not enough for faithfulness, it must be held right, pure from evil - Rom 1:18
- f. *“simple concerning evil”* - uncomplicated, inexperienced, ignorant, unmixed, without.
- g. It is wisdom to not accept, separate from, avoid evil - Eph 5:7, 15-17, 1 Thess 5:21-23

3. 16:20 – Bruising Satan

- a. *“God of peace”* – Whose peace follows when we do that which we have heard - Phi 4:9
- b. *“shall bruise Satan”* the adversary to sound doctrine, has ministers - 2 Cor 11:3-5, 13-15
 - i. Satan is god of this evil world - 1 Cor 5:5, 2 Cor 4:4, Gal 1:4, Eph 5:16
 - ii. Satan’s messages come from our flesh - 2 Cor 12:7 (see v18)
 - iii. Satan would have you ignorant of God’s grace, truth, peace - 2Cor 2:11, Eph 6:11
 - iv. Satan opposes truth with deception (power, signs, wonders, words) - 2Thess 2:9-12
 - v. He succeeds when you depart from the faith, heed doctrines of devils - 1 Tim 4:1
- c. God bruises Satan “under feet” by walking in his will - Rom 12:1-2, 18, 14:19, 15:30, 16:17-19
- d. The will of God is you complete, wholly separate, and pure in Christ - 1Th 4:1-3, 5:15-23
- e. Hold faith and avoiding error can save some from Satan’s snare - 1 Tim 1:19, 1 Cor 5:5

4. 16:20-24 – Final Salutations

- a. *“The grace ... be with you”* - 2 Th 3:17, In all Paul’s epistles (and Hebrews & Revelation)
- b. The list of companions with Paul help to give us a time this epistle was written.
- c. [Tim did Paul’s work to teach no other doctrine - 1 Tim 1:3, 1 Cor 4:15-17, 16:10, Phi 2:21
- d. Lucius – there was a kinsmen in Antioch (Acts 13:1), but Dr. Luke rejoined Paul in Acts 20:5
- e. Jason - whose house turned the world upside down in Thess & secured bail - Acts 17:5-10
- f. Sosipater – Probably the same as Sopater the Jew of Berea - Acts 17:11, 20:4] <- Jews
- g. Tertius was his amanuensis (transcriber); Paul signed the letters - Col 4:18, 1 Cor 16:21
- h. Gaius - baptized Corinthian (1Cor 1:14, Acts 18:8), Macedonian Acts 19:29, Derbe 20:4
- i. *“the whole church...”* - at Corinth, which would seem to make Gaius the baptized.
- j. Erastus an official of Corinth who traveled with Paul - Acts 19:22, 2 Tim 4:20
- k. v24 is Tertius after Paul’s pattern blessing all (whole verse missing from ESV, NIV, NLT)