

September 8, 2019 19069-A #49 (Last)

Romans 16:17-27

Discernment and Strength

I. Jesus did not teach his disciples to “think for themselves.” (Pr.3:5-6; 14:12)

A. He taught them to trust Him with their thinking. Matt.11:25-30; 28:18-20.

1. Paul put it in “spiritual warfare” terms. 2 Cor.10:4-5

B. Our culture says that we should be able to take into our minds any and every thing that presents itself, that it won't affect us because we will always be able to sift the truth. This is a great modernist conceit.

C. Warnings about false teachers permeate the NT.

1. **Matt 7:15-16; 24:4-5;** Acts. 20:29-30; 1 Tim.4:1-5; 1 Jn 4:1-3; (Jude; 2 Peter; etc.)

D. Paul ends his letter to the Romans with warning, greeting, and gratitude to God

II. A final warning. Romans 16:17-20

A. There are people in the visible Church to stay away from.

1. They divide spiritually.

a) Dissensions/ Division = disagreements

(1) *Tearing the fabric of fellowship needlessly*

b) Hindrances = things that make people trip in their faith, stumble.

(1) *Creating doubt, reducing confidence in the gospel Lk. 17:1-2*

c) *Faith is like walking. Watch out for trip hazards.*

2. They contradict apostolic teaching consistently. Gal. 1:6-10

a) “the teaching you learned” = Paul’s explanation of the Gospel they had already believed.

(1) Not his alone, but his in concert with the other apostles.

b) There is a distinct, historical shape to true Gospel.

(1) The Person and Work of Christ. 2 Jn 7-11

(2) The role and authority of Scripture. 2 Tim 3:16

(3) The way of salvation. Rom. 3:20-28; Eph. 2:8-10

3. They center on themselves primarily. (2 Cor.10-12)

a) A personal agenda, their own.

4. They deceive the naïve attractively

a) Naïve/innocent. Meaning innocent in an unfortunate way, not aware of the traps and schemes of the enemy.

b) Smooth and persuasive, but not true.

c) They look and sound spiritual, mature, admirable.

B. Two things the church is to do.

1. Take note of them. 1 Tim. 1:3-7

a) Healthy biblical skepticism is needed.

2. Steer clear of them. (believer’s own responsibility)

a) Do not allow them to influence you.

C. Paul is concerned but confident. 19-21

1. He trusts the Lord’s process in these people. 19

2. He trusts the Lord’s victory on behalf of the genuine believers. 20

3. *Don't be chicken little. Have some confidence in the Lord*

III. A final greeting. His friends send greetings. 21-24

- A. Timothy, the co-worker.
 1. Co-wrote six letters with Paul and personally received two from him.
- B. Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, the kinsmen
 1. Probably reps from the churches, Thessalonica (Jason); Berea (Sosipater)
 2. 'Kinsmen' refers to Jews
- C. Tertius, the writer
 1. Means "third" probably a slave name.
 2. Slave names were numbers Primas, Secundus, Tertius, Quartus
- D. Gaius, the host.
 1. Owned the home which served as the meeting place for the Corinth church
 2. Was baptized by Paul on the first trip. 1 Cor 1:14
- E. Erastus, the city official.
 1. Archaeological evidence, block with his name on it in Corinth (EBC)
- F. Quartus, the brother
 1. Means "fourth" a slave name.
- G. Note "important" people Gaius and Erastus, with slaves, Tertius and Quartus

IV. A final Doxology: Glory to God for His strength through the Gospel. 25-27

- A. God will strengthen you. 25. 1:11 (1 Cor.1:8-9; Phil.1:6; 2:12-13)
 1. Strengthen = to set firmly, stabilize, establish. To cause someone to become more convinced, firmer, stronger.
 2. This is the goal of ministry – established/stable faith. 2 Cor 11:3
 3. *His strength, not ours, is the reason Paul is joyful. This is not an exhortation to "be strong" but a glory to God, who is strong and does strengthen us. It's about Him.*
- B. As you focus on Jesus Christ. 25
 1. According to my gospel—the proclamation about Jesus Christ. 1:16-17
 2. "My Gospel" is the apostolic message about Jesus. "Paul's" because he got it directly from Jesus according to Gal. 1:11-ff
- C. And keep proclaiming the True Gospel. 25-26
 1. Which was a mystery kept secret for long ages. (1 Peter 1:10-12)
 - a) Something previously unknown but now revealed by God).
 2. But has now been revealed. Apokalupsis = unveiled, revealed by God.
 - a) *Something we would not have figured out on our own.*
 3. *Note: the Gospel is the final mystery and revelation from God. Heb.1:1-3*
- D. Which is Revealed by God's authority:
 1. Through the prophetic writings (Scriptures). 2 Tim 3:16
 - a) *A concept crucial to biblical and historic faith*
 2. According to the command of the eternal God
 - a) Command = order, command, authority.
 - b) *God simply ordered that this knowledge be released*
 3. For the obedience of the faith to all the nations (Gentiles).
 - a) The whole world needs to hear—this is the mission.
- E. **Because He alone is Wise and Glorious!!! 27**
 1. Glorified among us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

V. The Gospel is God's final message of hope and life to humanity. (Heb.1:1-3)

- A. The source of our strength--internally
- B. The test of our truth--theologically
- C. The guarantee of our life--eternally
- D. The message of our mission—cross-culturally. The nations