

"Closing Remarks"

Part 8

Romans 15:14-16:27

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we looked at two verses in which Paul warned the Roman believers about false teachers.

Notice Romans 16:17-18

We looked at two commands in verse 17.

1. Mark them which introduce doctrine that is contrary to the Word of God. Contrary doctrine causes divisions and offences.
2. Avoid those who teach false doctrine.

In verse 28 Paul informed his readers that these false teachers do not serve Jesus Christ but instead they serve their own desires and appetites. False teachers are not concerned about edifying the body of Jesus Christ but instead they are concerned about personal gain.

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

➤ **Responsibility concerning good and evil.**

Notice Romans 16:19a

This is an amazing statement which Paul makes about the believers at Rome. These people were known for walking in obedience to the Truth which they had. This is the result of their salvation.

Romans 1:8

⁸ *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

These Romans were saved by faith and they lived by faith. Because their faith was a True faith it produced obedience to the Word of God.

1 John 2:3-6

³ *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

⁶ *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Application:

The same should also be true of us who know the Lord. We were saved unto good works.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

A person who professes to know the Lord but has no righteous works in their lives cannot truly be saved.

James 2:14-22

¹⁴ *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

¹⁵ *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

¹⁶ *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

¹⁸ *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

¹⁹ *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

²⁰ *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

²¹ *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

²² *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

The obedience of the believers at Rome was evidence that their faith was real, and Paul commended them for their obedience.

Notice Romans 16:19 again.

At the end of this verse, we see that the Spirit of God through Paul's words expresses two of His desires for all believers.

1. We would be wise unto that which is good.

This begins with a study of the Word of God. Only by knowing the Bible are we going to be able to concern that which is good. We will not learn this from the world for in the world we see that what is good is labeled as evil and what is evil is labeled as that which is good. Society's moral compass is completely out of tune. So, the only way we can know what is good is by being saturated with the Word of God.

Philippians 4:8-9

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

I want you to notice verse 9 closely. It all starts with learning. This is learning the Word of God. As we grow in the Lord, we learn more of the good will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We are to search out what is good and then we are to follow that which is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

¹⁵ See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

1 Peter 3:12-13

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

¹³ And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

As we seek after that which is good then are to live in that which is good.

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Now let us notice the second desire of God for our lives.

2. We would be simple concerning evil.

Let me first of all explain what the word "simple" means here. It has the idea of being pure and not watered down. Notice the words of Barclay on this word:

"It is used of metal which has no suspicion of alloy, of wine and of milk which are not diluted with water. It describes something which is absolutely pure of any corruption. The Christian is a man whose utter sincerity must be beyond all doubt... When used of people, it implies motives which are unmixed. Christian purity must issue in a complete sincerity of thought and character."

So, what is Paul saying here? He desires for their/our doctrine to be completely free from any false teaching. This means we do not study the ways of evil in order to better understand them. In so doing we would poison our minds and the exposure would surely dilute the pure doctrine we are to live by.

So, we are to be wise in that which is good and naïve in that which is evil. We became familiar enough with evil before we were saved. We certainly do not need to go back to learn more about evil.

Ephesians 5:11

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Paul makes it very clear in 12:9.

Romans 12:9

⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

To abhor evil is to shrink back from it in terror. To always keep it at a distance and not approach it so as to investigate it.

Notice what someone has said concerning evil:

"The more willingly we associate with evil, the more it will drag us down to its level. To be simple in what is evil is not to be ignorant of it or to disregard it. We cannot abhor evil unless we have some idea of what it is. But, to use a popular analogy, the only reliable way to recognize a counterfeit bill is to be completely familiar with the genuine bill. The only reliable way to recognize evil is to be thoroughly familiar with the good, and the only reliable way to learn what is good is to learn God's Word."

➤ **The Promise**

Notice Romans 16:20

The word "bruise" here in this verse means "to crush". This is a promise of the fulfillment of the prophecy in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

There is coming a day when Satan will be crushed but when will that be? This verse tells us it will be "shortly". But here we are 2000 years later, and he is still walking around like a roaring lion. How are we to understand this? The word "shortly" means "suddenly" or "quickly".

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Here is the very same word and, in this context, it means "suddenly". In other words when the judgments of Revelation begin to fall, they will come upon the earth dwellers suddenly and rapidly.

The same is true of Satan's destruction. When the day comes, he will be destroyed suddenly and quickly. But when will it happen? He will be bound after the Tribulation and will stay bound for the Millennial Kingdom.

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

After the 1000-year Kingdom Satan will be loosed for a season to test those born in the Kingdom. After this he will then be cast into the Lake of Fire which will be his end.

Revelation 20:7-10

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Conclusion:

Today we saturate our minds with the Word of God because Satan and his demons would love to lead us into confusion. But there is coming a day when they will never again have any influence in our lives.