



Romans 16:17-27

LIVING THE GOSPEL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

It is fair then to say that the major themes of Paul's letter are encapsulated in the doxology: the power of God to save and to establish; the gospel and the mystery, once hidden and now revealed, which are Christ crucified and risen; the Christ-centered witness of the Old Testament Scripture; the commission of God to make the good news universally known; the summons to all the nations to respond with the obedience of faith; and the saving wisdom of God, to whom all glory is due for ever.
—John R.W. Stott (1921-2011)

Introduction (1:1-17)

SIN: The Problem of Humanity (1:18-3:20)

SALVATION: The Gift of Grace (3:21-5:21)

SANCTIFICATION: The Growth of Faith (6:1-8:39)

SOVEREIGNTY: The Plan of the Ages (9:1-11:36)

SERVICE: The Life of Worship (12:1-15:13)

Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

In Romans 16:17-27, the apostle Paul brings his great epistle to a conclusion. Paul's final words to the Roman believers reveal his concern for the church, his heart for the gospel, and his passion for the glory of God.

THE FINAL WARNING (16:17-19)

- Stay on the look out for and stay away from _____ ! (cf. Matt. 7:15-23; Acts 20:28-31).
- They _____ divisions and offenses.
- They _____ the core doctrines of the faith.
- They _____ their own self-interests.
- They _____ with smooth, appealing words.
- They _____ the testimony of the church.

It is neglect of the Bible which makes so many a prey to the first false teacher whom they hear.

—J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)

False teachers are especially prone to create divisions. They are often guilty of singling out one point of doctrine, distorting it and then exaggerating it until it stands out from others.

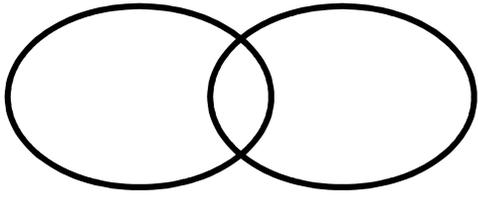
—Douglas J. Moo

The identity of Jesus Christ is one of the first things a cult leader changes. —Charles R. Swindoll

[Serving their own belly] is a graphic metaphor of self-indulgence. The expression is used in the sense of serving one-self, of being the willing slave of one's egotism. —John R.W. Stott

No matter how sincere and caring false teachers or preachers may appear to be, they are never genuinely concerned for the cause of Christ or for His church. They are driven by self-interest and self-gratification—sometimes for fame, sometimes for power over their followers, always for financial gain, and frequently for all of those reasons. Many of them enjoy pretentious and luxurious lifestyles, and sexual immorality is the rule more than the exception. —John MacArthur

- Be both _____ and _____ (cf. Matthew 10:16).



The believer in Christ is to live within the balanced tension of truth and love, doctrine and compassion, discernment and grace, orthodoxy and beauty.

THE FINAL PROMISE (16:20a)

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet in a short time (cf. Gen. 3:15; Num. 24:17; Ps. 110:5-6; Jer. 23:19-20; Hab. 3:12-13).

THE FINAL PRAYER (16:20b, 24)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

THE FINAL GREETINGS (16:21-23)

- *From Paul's fellow workers—Timothy, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater*
- *From Paul's amanuensis--Tertius*
- *From Paul's host—Gaius*
- *From Paul's friends—Erastus (city treasurer) and Quartus*

THE FINAL DOXOLOGY (16:25-27)

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations according to the commandment of the everlasting God for the obedience to the faith—
To God, alone wise, be glory forever.
through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Shrewdness and integrity form a crucial combination not often found in the Christian church. In fact, we more often invert the two, proving to be as guilty as serpents and as stupid as doves.

—Craig Blomberg

Truth is so obscure in these times and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it.

—Blaise Pascal (1623-62)

Christ, our champion, has already won the field and will shortly set our feet upon the necks of our spiritual enemies. Satan is a foiled adversary. Christ has led him captive and triumphed over him upon the cross. Christ has already overcome him and put weapons into our hands that you may overcome him also and set your feet upon his neck. ...Cheer up, you precious sons of Zion, for the certainty and sweetness of victory will abundantly recompense you for all the pains you have taken in resistance against Satan's temptations.

—Thomas Brooks (1608-80)

God wants to bring you and me to a place where we are no longer shaky or unstable, but solid and secure. The idea is basically what all human beings look for—an inner security from which you can handle all the problems of life. ...This is the goal of Christian teaching in the NT.

—Ray Stedman

Faith alone unites us to Christ and Christ alone is the ground of our justification. Our obedience is the fruit of that faith. The faith that justifies is the kind of faith that, by the Holy Spirit, changes us.

—John Piper