

**ROMANS**  
**Our Message to the World**  
 AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

**Watch Out!**  
 Romans 16:17-23  
 May 12, 2016

:17-19 **I. Oppose schismatics**

:17a **A. Watch out for them.**

<sup>17</sup>*I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; ...*

For what did the first century Christians have to watch out?

Those who cause:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| ◆ Unnecessary conflict among the brethren | Titus 3:10, 11         |
| ◆ Unresolved conflict                     | I Corinthians 6:1-8    |
| ◆ Favoritism                              | James 2:1-7            |
| ◆ Party spirit                            | I Corinthians 1:10-13  |
| ◆ Unnecessary arguments                   | II Timothy 2:22-26     |
| ◆ Jealousy                                | I Corinthians 12:21-25 |

Those who deny:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ◆ Deity and Incarnation of Christ                         | I John 2:18-27; 4:2, 3            |
| ◆ Christ's substitutionary atonement                      | Galatians 5:7-12; Col. 2:18, 19   |
| ◆ Christ's bodily resurrection                            | Matthew 28:11-15; I Cor. 15:12-58 |
| ◆ Necessity of faith in Christ through hearing the Gospel | Acts 4:12                         |
| ◆ Apostolic authority                                     | II Cor. 11:12-15; III John 9, 10  |
| ◆ The full entail of sin                                  | Matthew 5:23; Rom. 1:18-3:20      |
| ◆ The grace of God  | Galatians 1:6-9; Phil. 3:1-11     |
| ◆ Creation  | Acts 17:24                        |
| ◆ Biblical sexuality                                      | Revelation 2:14, 20-23            |
| ◆ Biblical conduct  | I Peter 2; Jude 3, 4              |
| ◆ Racial and socio-economic justice                       | Galatians 2:11-14; James 2:1-10   |
| ◆ Absolute truth  | John 19:37, 38                    |
| ◆ The return of Christ                                    | II Peter 3:1-10                   |

For what do twenty-first century Christians have to watch out?

- ◆ Post-modern relativism
- ◆ Philosophical evolution
- ◆ Secular humanism
- ◆ Perversion of biblical origins and hermeneutics
- ◆ Moral relativism → pragmatism → denial of conscience (erosion of sexual ethic)

:17b **B. Avoid them.**

*... avoid them.*

cf. I Corinthians 5:11; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14; II Timothy 3:5; Titus 3:10, 11; II John 10, 11

- :18 C. Discern them.
- :18a 1. Their motives  
<sup>18</sup> *For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, ...*  
 cf. Philippians 3:19
- :18b 2. Their methods  
 ... *and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.*  
 cf. Jeremiah 14:14; Matthew 7:15
- :19 3. Their message  
<sup>19</sup> *For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.*  
 cf. Romans 12:2; I Corinthians 14:20; Ephesians 5:17; I John 4:1

:20 **II. Trust in the Lord.**

- :20a A. The future victory of God  
<sup>20</sup> *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. ...*  
 cf. Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 2:8f
- :20b B. The present grace of God  
*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

:21-23 **III. Unite with your brothers.**

<sup>21</sup> *Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.*  
<sup>22</sup> *I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.* <sup>23</sup> *Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.*

Paul had ministry friends who were:

- ◆ Colleagues
- ◆ Protégés
- ◆ Administrative helpers
- ◆ Hosts
- ◆ Those with influence
- ◆ Those with no influence

I Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:19-24  
 II Timothy 1:1-7