

ROMANS 16:16-18

June 18, 1980

Tonight we go to Romans 16 for our second to last Corps teaching. Again, Corps, it's just the greatness of the Word is simply amazing to me all the time. It turns me on and blesses my soul. Every time you work the Word, I stand in utter amazement of it, and I've worked it a few times in a few years. I cannot understand why people don't just go to the Word, why the religious leaders, the church leaders, just don't go to the Word, because it's so simple, so accurate. And it would change an "h" of a lot of things in their lives as well as our country if we just got back to the Word.

I'm not sure if I covered verse 16 of the sixteenth chapter of Romans in detail last week. Did I tell you that the sexes in the Bible, Old Testament, New Testament period, sexes did not intermingle like we do today? I don't think I told you that according to the liturgical literature of that age, so-called Jewish point of view, there were only three types of kisses that were permitted. But they were only among men. Men didn't kiss women in public. Men kissed men, and there were three types of kisses among men. The first type is called the kiss of reverence. That is still carried on today when people bow before the pope and they kiss his ring. That's the kiss of reverence. When they bow at the feet of a bishop and they kiss the bishop's ring. In the Far East, like in India, the people would fall down in front of a religious leader and they would reach out to touch his feet, but if they could get close enough, they would kiss his feet. That's the kiss of reverence.

The second one was the kiss of receiving someone. Today we say "hi." When two men would meet, let's say I was receiving you, then I would kiss you on the cheek. It was not a kissing on the lips. That's the second category, the kiss of receiving.

The third category is the kiss of dismissal. Today we say "good-bye." Except among eastern people and some European people, here in the United States the kiss among men has pretty well been replaced by handshaking. Likewise with ladies in our intermingled culture. The handshake that replaced the kissing of men that was in the European culture, pretty well came to pass here in The United States because it's a western introduction to shake hands. The reason they would shake hands is so that the other fellow couldn't pull a sword or gun on him. So we shake right hands, so with your right hand you can't get to your sword. That's one of the reasons for the handshake, so nobody can pull a gun on you or pull a sword on you. You get him by the right hand and he can't pull his sword or gun on you. That's western culture.

That's what verse 16 in Romans 16 is talking about.

Romans 16:16

Romans 16:17

"doctrine" – right teaching

Contrary to the right teaching which ye have learned. And they couldn't have learned if somebody hadn't taught it to them. So the right teaching of the Word was taught to them.

I'm sort of amazed that this warning, this word of warning here comes at the close of the book of Romans. Yet, I understand it in the light of its spiritual application. It's like Acts 15 in same respects.

Acts 15:1

If you'll read chapter 13 and 14, you'll find out why Paul was so concerned about making a trip to Jerusalem, because these men from Judaea had crept in and they were teaching and slyly leading people into questioning things about the circumcision. Finally, when they got them along far enough they said, "Are you sure you can be saved without being circumcised?"

So this word of warning in Romans 16 is truly significant. These people caused divisions and offences. Secondly, the divisions and offences they caused are contrary to true teaching, to true doctrine.

"divisions" – *dichostasia*; means a symptom. If that symptom when it starts is not stopped, it will produce a division that's called *schisma*. This word in verse 17 is not a *schisma*. It's only the introduction of a symptom, which if it is not culminated will produce a *schisma*. *Schisma* means a rent, like if you would rent your clothes, break it apart. This division does not arise from ignorance of not knowing the Word or truth. But it is willful selfishness and back to the old man fleshly weaknesses.

I Corinthians 3:3

Romans 16:17

Mark them which causes divisions and offences contrary to the right teaching, doctrine, which ye have learned and avoid them.

The word "divisions" literally also means dissension.

Romans 14:13

That "stumblingblock" is the word *skandalon* from which we get our word scandal. Divisions is *skandalon*.

Romans 16:17

"offences" – The word "offend" would be much more accurate if it were a "stumbling-block." These are contrary to the doctrine of the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation without hypocrisy because all through Romans here the Word of God has been showing us that there ought to be a unity among the body of believers. Yet, there ought to be a liberty, if you are not unlearned, if you are instructed, a liberty where the other believer has the right to make their own decisions. That we need to learn again, because in so many places the unity of the body is lost because they do not allow the liberty in custom. Thank God we've come far enough in The Way Ministry to believe the Word and to let our people do their custom according to the best intents of their hearts and life, as long as it isn't totally out of order or as long as it isn't out of order with God's Word. As long as it's decent and in order, you know, I don't care if you girls put your hair up or let it hang or whether the men wear suits and ties or have long hair or short hair. That's where the liberty is. Then you also have to allow the liberty to the immature believer that I discussed in detail in previous weeks with the Corps. You've got a young baby in the ministry. You can't expect that young baby to walk as beautifully as you walk. So you have to just have the love of God in renewed mind in manifestation without hypocrisy.

"contrary" – *para*; Every preposition has to be interpreted in the light of the usage of that word within the verse checked against context. You know all of that. "Contrary" is the preposition *para* here in verse 17. *Para* means along side of.

Galatians 1:8

“than” – *para*, meaning along side of

Romans 1:25

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie” – Then you no longer have right teaching, true doctrine.

“more” – *para*; Worshipped and served the creature along side of the true Creator.

Romans 16:17

“contrary” – is that preposition and really is significantly used; offences contrary to the right teaching, doctrine; Divisions and offences that run along side of. Mathematically you’d think of it as parallel. Here’s the truth of God’s Word and this word *para*, there are divisions and offences that run parallel to the right teaching. Right teaching and their teaching is parallel.

Genesis 3 has this same problem. You and I would not have any problem if it were an absolute denial of the true teaching. We have no problem with a direct frontal attack. But when it just sort of sneaks up on us succinctly right along side of the truth you have been taught, that is a danger that will become serious if not rectified.

It is so much like the real truth, it is so much like the genuine truth that it’s just a shade off. That’s the word “contrary” here, *para*. I thought it was significant in the book of Romans that this preposition *para*, along with other root words is used three different ways in the book of Romans. Number one is to hear aside of. Number two is to step aside of. Number three is to fall aside of. Before you can ever fall you have to hear. And before you can ever fall you have to take a step toward that. You have to walk toward it, else you could not fall. Adam and Eve, the original fall could only be because they heard something along side of, and she took a step toward it, because the Adversary said hast God truly said thou shalt.... That’s the order of progression of downfall among the church body which we are given warning of here in the closing verses of this fantastic book of Romans. These are not frontal attacks. They are just sort of sneaky attacks. They come right up along side of us, but they don’t really look so bad.

To hear aside, the first one I gave you in the steps downward, is the word *parakoē*. It is used in Romans 5:19. To step aside of or along side of is the word *parabasis*. It’s used in Romans 5:14. I think all of you baseball players will recognize what happens when you miss the base. If you’re along side of it, they’ll count you out. That’s right. The third Greek word meaning to fall aside is the word *paraptōma*. It’s used in Romans 5:15, 16, 18, 20. All four of those places, and four is indicative of a world number. In order to fall aside you have to go back to the world, the senses, and walk away from the truth of God’s Word, the right doctrine.

Contrary to the doctrine. Two things are told us in that verse. Number one, mark them. Number two, avoid them. You mark the sly things that come along side the accuracy of God’s Word. You mark them by the right dividing of the Word. If you have the right dividing of the Word, right doctrine, then when something comes along side of it, no matter how good it looks, you check it against the Word. And if it’s a little bit off color, that is *para*, contrary. So you mark it by rightly dividing the Word. And you avoid them. Avoid means to turn away from. If they are off the Word at all, you don’t get yourself taken in with it. You turn away from it. And people turn away from things by the freedom of the will. You either go down the drain or you stay put on the rightly divided Word.

In the close of this fantastic church epistle, the great foundational truth of all doctrine, he

brings us at the close of this the warning to watch those who introduce along side of the truth and purity of the greatness of God's Word something that is real exciting, real kosher, real reasonable, but it's a shade off. Watch it. Mark it and then avoid it. Turn away from it.

Remember, we're dealing with the love of God in renewed mind in manifestation without hypocrisy. That is really hypocrisy, because the love of God in renewed mind is the pure love of God. This is false love.

Many people who look religious will say to you well you've got to be lenient with people, you've got to do this, you've got to do that. Or they'll say to just let it go. That's the attitude they'll have. And they'll say that it'll pass. It's just one little phase in their life. It's no deal. Don't pay any attention to it. The Word of God says you better pay attention to it. You have to mark them and you have to avoid them, you have to turn away, if they are off the Word at all.

Romans 16:18

The critical Greek texts do not have the word "Jesus" and I did not take the time to look it up in Aramaic. I would assume that the word could be in Aramaic. Between you and me it ought to be there. I think the Aramaic is right. But I gave you what the Greek texts do.

"By good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" – You have to look up a few scripture along these lines. This stuff in here is real practical and real wonderful. And he's just winding this whole book up and God had him put this in here right at the end so that if you have the great knowledge of the Word of God, saved by grace, by believing, all that stuff the Word talks about in the book of Romans, you've got that all really in your heart, be careful, watch, mark those who come along and slyly and succinctly parallel off something along side that isn't quite it, but it looks real kosher. You've got to watch and be sharp on the Word.

II Corinthians 11:13

A false prophet would be one who would set something along side of the Word which is not really the Word. They are deceitful workers.

II Corinthians 11:14

I've taught you time and time again that the genuine is so much like the counterfeit, or the counterfeit like the genuine, that you have to be a master in the field of the genuine to spot the counterfeit. In the financial field you know that's true. But it's more true in the spiritual field. There is a fantastic lack of the accurate knowledge of God's Word so the counterfeit will go unnoticed. As a matter of fact, many times the counterfeit has been accepted as the truth of God's Word because of tradition which has passed it on without people checking the Word. Take four crucified with Jesus. All through it, right? How's come we weren't taught the accuracy of it? Because they didn't go back to the Word. Jesus Christ died on Good Friday and got up Easter Sunday morning. We've all been taught this. It's run along side of the Word, but some place that which ran along side of which was contrary to the Word was believed as the Word. The Word was no longer held to, believed.

I Timothy 6:3-5

Titus 1:10, 11

They didn't step them early enough; therefore, they overthrew whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for gain's sake.

Romans 16:18

“serve” – To the best of my ability means they refused to serve. They are such who refuse to serve.

“their own belly” – their own selves, their own vanity, their own egotism.

“good words” – smooth talkers who use insinuating words, words that have a tendency to cause you to doubt. They just don’t come right out and they say it. But they imply it by what they say. They make you doubt. Genesis, has God really said.... Didn’t come right out and say it, but the implication was there to get you to doubt. That’s “good words.”

These are men served not our Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly. By good words they act real cool and sharp. They look real good, but they are sly. That’s *para*, along side of. Using good words and fair speeches.

“fair speeches” – *eulogia*, from which we get eulogy. Fair speeches is a eulogy where you lay it on thick. Real sensible and sounds reasonable. These people are always so sincere. Very religious like a certain woman who prays every morning at 6:00 in the Roman Catholic Church, prays all the time, never takes an abundant sharing. Everything is free. That’s the words fair speeches.

“deceive” – beguile

I Timothy 2:14**II Corinthians 11:3**

The serpent came along side of, *para*, and he beguiled her, deceived her. If you get beguiled, your mind is going .to became corrupted from the simplicity of the Word. That’s fantastic in the light of Romans 16:18.

Fair speeches. The Adversary knew what he was doing to Eve. Fair speeches. He beguiled, he deceived.

It’s interesting that the Greek word “deceit” is the word *dolos*, very closely aligned with *doulos*. *Dolos* means bait. Then there’s another Greek word, *apatē*, which is deceit when the bait is taken. *Dolos* is the bait. That’s the deceit.

It’s like a mouse trap. Put the cheese on the trap. That’s the *dolos*. When the mouse canes in and takes it, it’s *apatē*, the bait taken. Then he’s really hooked.

Romans 16:18

This word here in Romans 16 is *apatē*. It’s a false statement, yet it’s taken as true. By good words and fair speeches, the people eat it. It’s a false statement, but they take that statement as true.

I made a note in my notes here, “deceive” meaning thoroughly deceptive with their good words and fair speeches they are thoroughly deceptive.

“simple” – *akakos*, meaning not sufficiently knowledgeable, or believably knowledgeable of the integrity and accuracy of the Word and thus cannot and some desire not to adhere to the knowledge they do have. That’s the word simple, *akakos*.

The letter “a” means not. *Kakos* means evil.

There’s a beautiful translation in Proverbs that will help the Corps clarify this in Romans.

Proverbs 14:15

That's the word simple, *akakos*. The simple get hooked, trapped, by good words and fair speeches which deceive the hearts of the simple.

Romans 16:18

The simple get hooked. They just get trapped by these people who come along side of the Word and say with their good words, their wonderful appearance, their great personality, all of that. The simple get hooked, trapped, because they are not sharp on the Word. These men with good words and fair speeches say admirable things and they express themselves beautifully with fine phrases and enticing words. That is the word simple in all of its basic root form in the best of my ability to handle it with the Corps.

I've done a rather extensive literal according to usage of verse 17 and 18 that sort of communicates to me at least. I trust it will to the Corps.

Literal according to usage of Romans 16:17:

After all of this I imploringly beg you to be sharp and watch carefully those who just slip in along side who so lovingly and sincerely start laying groundwork for doubts and rumors fostering dissention and stumblingblock just a little off color with the true Word, don't let them get away with it.

Literal according to usage of Romans 16:18:

For they really are not subject to nor serve in subjection our Lord Jesus Christ but their own selves, they are tricky and sly, real smooth talkers and flattering, but thoroughly deceptive and will deceive the unlearned and carry them off as booty if you don't stop them pronto.

Well, Corps, those are verses 17 and 18.