"The Conclusion to the Book of Romans"
Romans 16:17-27

Message by Michael J. Barnard November 29, 2026

Teaching Aim: To examine Paul's final warning to the Roman Christians as he cautioned them to beware of false teachers. To understand, no matter what we are facing in life, *"the God of peace will crush Satan under our feet shortly."* To recognize, when we are in Christ, we are in a win/win situation. To realize God has called the church body to work as a team, when we do, more people are reached for Christ, Christians grow spiritually, and God is glorified.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD *(BIBLE STUDY)*

Part I: Paul's warning to the church against false teachers (Rom. 16:17-20)

1. What final warning does the Apostle Paul bring to the church at Rome in **verse 17**? Do you see this warning as still applicable to the church today? Why or why not? How did Paul encourage the Christians to react when coming into contact with false teachers?

2. Do you realize that Jesus prayed for you personally as well as for your church on the night before His crucifixion? What did Jesus specifically pray for according to **John 17:20-23**? The false teachers brought *"divisions and offenses"* contrary to the doctrine that had been previously taught to the Romans. What will the true teacher of God's Word bring according to **Psa. 119:105** and **John 17:17**? How does the teaching of God's Word affect people today? How has God's Word touched your life?

3. How would you define the word, *"doctrine"* (**vs. 17**)? (See Dictionary) How about the word *"theology?"* (See Dictionary) Why is it important for every Christian to *"continually"* be sharpening up on right doctrine and proper theology? On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your church at teaching Bible doctrine? What are some practical steps that you can take to sharpen your own theological skills (theology meaning the study of God)?

4. What are some ways that false teachers make their way into unsuspecting churches (**vs. 18**)? Who are the false teachers really serving according to **verse 18**? Who are the false teachers not serving according to the same verse? Who was Paul speaking of when he referred to some Christians as *"simple?"* Do we still find *"simple"* Christians in our churches today? What can every Christian learn about false teachers from **verse 18**?

5. What can we learn about the church in Rome from **verse 19a**? How did this news affect the apostle Paul? The word *"simple"* is used in a negative sense in **verse 18**, however the same word is used in a positive sense in **verse 19b**. What were the differences? Knowledge has to do with the gathering data (in other words, information); wisdom has to do with applying that knowledge wisely to everyday life. In what area should the Christian be wise according to the apostle Paul? Why should *"goodness"* be an attribute of every Christian? What is meant when we say that a Christian is *"simple concerning evil?"* Are there areas in your life where you've become complicated and you need to become simple once again concerning evil?

6. Peace is the opposite of war. Who is the chief enemy of peace? What incredible promise does the struggling Christian find in **verse 20**? Why should **verse 20** be an encouragement to every Christian personally? How does this verse relate to **Gen. 3:15**?

7. How do you end your personal letters when writing to friends (**vs. 20**)? Read the following verses and see if you can find the theme Paul customarily used when ending his letters? What does Paul use over and over again? (See **Rom. 16:20b; 1 Cor. 16:23; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 6:18; Eph. 6:24; Phil. 4:23; Col. 4:18; 1 Thess. 5:28; 2 Thess. 3:18; 1 Tim. 6:21b; 2 Tim. 4:22; Tit. 3:15b; Phile. 25**) Have you ever thought about incorporating a version of Paul's closing statement into your own letters as a way to honor God and bless your friends?

Part II: Greetings from Paul's co-workers (Rom. 16:21-24)

1. Timothy and Silas were Paul's closest co-workers going different directions with Barnabas (**vs. 21**). How close was the relationship between Paul to Timothy? (See **1 Tim. 1:2, 18; 2 Tim. 1:2**) Was Timothy a *"physical son"* of Paul or was he his *"son in the faith?"* Is there anyone you are discipling and helping to grow in their Christian faith? Why or why not? Why is it important for every Christian to disciple someone?

2. What can we learn about the nationality of Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater from **verse 21**? Many have tried to identify Lucius as Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Luke was a Gentile, Lucius according to **verse 21** was a Jew. Was this the same person? A more likely possibility is that this is the Lucius found in **Acts 13:1-3**, what was this individual involved in? Who do most scholars believe the Jason of **verse 21** was? (See **Acts 17:5-10**) Who was Sosipater (perhaps a longer form of "Sopater")? What did he do in the Bible? What country was he most likely from? (See **Acts 20:4-6; 17:5-10**)

3. The only mention of Tertius in the Bible is found in **verse 22** of **Romans chapter 16**. Who is Tertius and how did he function around the apostle Paul? Paul was extremely intelligent (See **Acts 5:34; 22:3**), why do you think he dictated the letter of Romans to Tertius rather than writing it himself? (See **Gal. 4:15**) What was Paul's customary way of ending his letters so that people would know that the letter was actually from him? (See **1 Cor. 16:21; Gal. 6:11; Col. 4:18; 2 Thess. 3:17**)

4. There are at least four men in the New Testament with the name Gaius. What can we learn about this particular Gaius from **verse 23**? Paul wrote the Book of Romans from the city of Corinth where he was staying during his Third Missionary Journey. According to **verse 23**, who did he stay with? Who do you think probably pastored the church in Gaius' house?

5. This Erastus may have been the individual mentioned in **Acts 19:22 and 2 Tim. 4:20**, but nobody can say for sure. What do we know from **verse 23**? Why is it so special when political figures come to faith in Jesus Christ? What, if anything, do we know about Quartus, besides the fact his name means *"Fourth son"* (**vs. 23**)? Do you think he was *"spiritual brother"* of Erastus only, or perhaps his *"physical brother"* as well?

6. The authenticity of **verse 24** has been questioned by some as the verse is not found in many of the earliest Gr. manuscripts. What is the only difference you can find between **verse 20b** and **verse 24**?

Part III: A doxology of praise to God (Rom. 16:25-27)

1. Who is able to establish you in your faith according to **verse 25**? According to this verse, what was the gospel (or good news) that Paul preached? (See **1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16)** How did Paul receive this message? A mystery *"revealed"* in New Testament is a truth previously hidden in the Old Testament that has now been revealed in the New. What mystery did Paul refer to in **verse 25**? (See **Eph. 3:1-6**)

2. What special mission was given to Paul by God (**vs. 26**)? (See **Acts 9:15**) According to **verse 26**, is the message of the gospel an *"invitation"* for people who would like to come to faith in Jesus to do so, or is it a *"command"* from God for all people everywhere to repent and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord? Have you received Jesus? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

3. Who alone is truly wise (**vs. 27**)? How does God receive glory according to **verse 27**? What are some ways that we can bring glory to God through our everyday lives today?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jesus prayed for unity among believers in His High Priestly prayer on the night before His crucifixion.
- Christians should never compromise correct doctrine for the sake of satisfying unbelievers.
- Paul urged Christians to note those who cause divisions and offenses by bringing another gospel into the church and secondly to avoid them.
- A church walking with Jesus will honor God and become known in the community for its faithfulness to Him.
- In Christ, *"the God of peace"* will crush Satan under our feet in the not too distant future.
- As Christians, we are in a win/win situation no matter what we are facing in life.
- Coming to faith in Jesus, is not an option, it is a command from God.

Themes in Romans (A chapter by chapter breakdown.)

Romans 1: God has revealed His invisible attributes to the world through creation so that men and women are without excuse if they reject Him.

Romans 2: Those who reject Christ are only storing up wrath for themselves. The goodness of God should lead us to repentance and not rebellion.

Romans 3: All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The only way to salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Romans 4: Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Romans 5: When we are justified by faith in Christ, we have peace with God.

Romans 6: The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7: We will constantly struggle with sin in this life, but there is victory in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8: There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 9: God will have mercy on whom He will have mercy, and compassion on whom He will have compassion. (God is sovereign and we are not.)

Romans 10: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (This refers to the responsibility of Man.)

Romans 11: Israel's rejection is not final; God still has a future plan for His chosen people.

Romans 12: We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is our spiritual act of worship. (We are to share our spiritual gifts, not keep them for ourselves.)

Romans 13: Everyone must be subject to the governing authorities, so long as the government doesn't command us to do something God forbids or forbid us to do something that God commands.

Romans 14: We are not to cause our brothers and sisters in Christ to stumble through the misuse of our Christian liberties.

Romans 15: One day Gentile nations will glorify God together with the Jewish people

Romans 16: We are to be appreciative of those who co-labor together with us for Christ in ministry and not forget them. We exist for the purpose of glorifying God and enjoying Him forever.