

Romans 16:17-27

Focused Faith

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. 19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. 20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

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

The word Urge in v.17 is the same word translated Beseech or even beg in other places

A)As Paul closes out this chapter it is as if – he was dropping down on one knee – and saying – I am begging you guys – serious and heart felt

B)This is actually the 3rd time in the book of Romans that Paul uses this phrase – the first time was in Romans 12:1 – turn there

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

A)The First time he uses the phrase it is personal in application

B)Living sacrifice -Reasonable service or worship

C)Drawing from the Sacrificial system in Israel – Lamb, Bull, goat

Only striking difference – The offerings were all dead!

A)Living sacrifice = willful

B)Living sacrifice – Not a Onetime offering-constant Daily

C)Daily surrender of ourselves to Jesus – live not for ourselves but to live for him.

D)So the first time this word is used it is Personal

2nd time it is Purposeful. Ch. 15:30

³⁰ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, ³¹ that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

Mission

A)He is going to Jerusalem to take the gospel into the world – he is inviting them to participate with him in the work of the gospel through prayer

B)We need to realize – We have a Purpose to partner in the gospel – God invites us participating in the spreading of the gospel

1)Prayer

2)Giving

3)Going

4)Doing – personal sharing

The third time it is used – focus is Protectional – Being watchful and being careful

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note** those who cause divisions and offenses,

A)Note: Scopus – Scope – telescope, microscope – even scope – Gun scope – target

B)Target – focused – direction

Watch out for Division

A)God hates division – Abominable – Abomination – when is the last time that you used that word. Abomination – really bad – dinner

B) Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,

¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

C)God hates division! – Tears his body apart

1)Division is harmful –

Ever rip a bandage off? Hurts – stings –

A) Because when you rip off a bandage a part of you is – coming off with the bandage – that is how Division is

B) Ripping of the flesh of the body of Christ – Hurts – divides – it is destroying the harmony – the unity

C) God loves when his people are dwelling in unity

Paul says be watchful of those who cause divisions and offenses

A) Offenses in the Greek work Scandalon = to lay a trap for others to fall into

B) Notice the source of the division and offenses
17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

C) The source of the division and offenses – trip them up would be false teachers.

When Paul was leaving the church in Ephesus – He ministered there for 3 yrs – Acts 20 – mini conference with the Elders – Island of Miletus

A) Hardest things that he would say: ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. Acts 20:29-31

B) Me getting our Pastors, Elders – Steve, Eddie, Jesse, Rob, Pete – Mike Dunn, Jim Westby, Rick Barsh – Chris Wheatley – all the other guys

C) After I am gone – Savage wolves – guys with wrong motives are going to come into the church – (bad enough)

³⁰ Also **from among yourselves men** will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

The nature of a wolf – Wolves eat sheep!

A) Paul says there in Acts this is their nature draw people toward themselves –

B) Similar thing in Romans 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

C) Nature of false teaching – draw people to themselves – be dependent upon them or some methodology – rather than Jesus

No room for teaching that is contrary to Orthodoxy – any teaching that denies Jesus is God – denies the trinity

A) Salvation – by grace through faith – alone

B) Remember Galatia - Paul said of those who sought to add to the message of Salvation by grace – add circumcision

1) **Let them cut themselves off - Let them be accursed**

C) **So No room for false teaching – teaching wrong – goes against Orthodoxy**

D) Someone has some New interpretation – New probably not true – True it is probably not new
1) Pastor Chuck and the Bible Code:

“There is enough in the Bible that we are failing to do by reading it forwards – I don’t think we need to read it backwards”

Paul says watch out for those who cause divisions – false teachings – those who set traps for the simple

A) False teachers prey on the Simple minded – those young in the faith – those young in yrs –

B) Jesus said: **Beware lest anyone cause a little one (young person or young in the faith) to stumble – better millstone sea and drown**

1) Millstones – large stone – grinding wheat – 1500lbs – SERIOUS

C) PAUL said to the church in Ephesus – I warned you everyday!

A shepherd who only feeds the sheep but never warns... fattening for the Kill

D) So first he says – Be watchful – next in V.19 He says – Be Careful

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

A) He starts by complimenting them – your obedience has been known to all!

B) The testimony of the church spread all over the world

C) Calvary Vista – your love, heart for the gospel, your simplicity – known to all men

1) Never found a place like Calvary Vista

D) Awesome! Paul had a similar thing to say about the church in Rome

But he also has a warning – Be Careful

A) Be wise toward what is good! – Focus on what is good – Wisdom is knowledge applied

B) So you guys be wise about what is good – be discerning about how to apply the knowledge of God's word to your daily lives

C) **God's word is meant to be practical** – influence our lives on every level – You be wise concerning what is good

And simple concerning what is evil – Don't know too much about that

A) Experts in Good – Naïve about what is evil

B) Some people know far too less of God's word and far too much about certain TV shows or movies – that would be considered evil – not godly

C) NLT – stay innocent of any wrong

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

A) Back to the Garden – Fall – God said to the serpent – the One coming from the seed of the woman – bruise heel – crush your head

B) Jesus bruised at Calvary – but Satan Crushed

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having

nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:13-15

C) Fatal blow at the cross – but right now – not crushed under our feet - BUT Shortly –

OUR Battle – The world the flesh and the devil

A) Listen if you didn't constantly have desires for things that don't please God – you wouldn't have problem

B) And if the world wasn't filled with things that don't please God – you would have a problem

C) And if there wasn't a devil constantly using the things of this world to tempt our flesh – you wouldn't have a as much of a problem

BUT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

A) We are flesh – living in this world – and there is a Devil – but one day SHORTLY – He is going to be crushed - Jesus returns – Satan lake of fire – DONE

B) Satan on the prowl like a lion – seeking whom he may devour

C) Ever watch shows lion hunts – doesn't prance out into the open – you and me throw down

D) No they hide in the bushes – they prey on the weak link
Satan knows where we are vulnerable

Be Careful – stay alert – stay on guard! Stay watchful

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

A) Grace from perspective of heaven – God's nature – his desire to give what is best for his children – God is a Father

B) From our perspective – it is that which is unmerited, undeserved favor –

C) 1 Peter 4:10 good stewards of the Manifold grace – multi-faceted – multi-colored grace of God

D) Joseph's coat Hebrew translated into Greek – manifold –

Why it is important to note: God's grace is many colored – multi-faceted

A) Our sin is multi-faceted – so are our trials

B) Great truth in Hebrews 4 – Jesus our High Priest – sympathize with our weaknesses –

1) **tempted.... Without sin -**

C) He can relate to the struggles of the flesh – fatigue – hunger – cravings ‘tempted just like us – he just didn't give in

D) So ¹⁶ “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

E) Timely Grace for the need at hand!

1) Run to the throne –

So be watchful/ be careful- Be established

Covered V.21-24 last week – V.25 Benediction

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **Establish = to make stable –**

A) “establish” comes from is the word “prop,” as with a prop which holds something up.

B) Paul refers to one thing in Five ways about how we are established – that one thing is the Word –

²⁵ 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 kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—

C) We are established – made strong and stable – through the word

1) We grow up by Growing down

Roots down deep into God's word

A) Sometimes after a storm you see Big trees blown completely over

B) Roots sticking out of the ground – problem – roots hadn't grown down – surface

C) A lot of Christians that maybe look good on the surface – they know the songs the lingo – but storm comes – wiped out

1) They hadn't grown down

D) Parable of the Builders - Sand and Rock – hears and ignores – vs hears and does

Redwoods – interlocking root system – Grow down together!

As we close tonight – Consider the word Mystery V.25

A) The word translated, “mystery” is the Greek word *musterion*.

B) It doesn't mean that which **can't be figured out, but rather that which was previously hidden and now has been revealed**

C) **Musterion** is like the car commercials in which the new model is covered with a sheet or canvas. 1) You can see the shape of it, but not the details.

D) The engineer knows what's underneath the canvas.

1) The designer already knows the shape of the car. But the car remains hidden to the rest of us.

So, too, the mystery of which Paul spoke was hidden until the right moment. What is the mystery?

A) It begins to unfold in Romans 11:25, where Paul uses the word *musterion* for the first time in regard to the mystery that Gentiles would be brought into the kingdom.

B) Then he mentions it *musterion* again in Ephesians 3:2–6,

C) One new humanity formed in Christ made up of Jews and gentiles brought together as one in Jesus

1) This was revolutionary.

But it is the third appearance of the word *musterion* that touches the heart of the mystery,

A) For it is there Paul writes of the mystery of “Christ in you—the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:25–27).

B)It's not a program given to us, not rules and regulations laid on us,
1)not expectations placed before us,

C)but rather Christ *in* us, the hope of glory.

A lot of people think Christianity involves some rules, some regulations, a standard, a code to live by, and some activities to take part in.

A)Nothing could be further from the truth because Jesus did not come **to make bad people good, nor to make good people better.**

B)He came to make dead men alive by living in them. That is the Mystery - "Christ in you—the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:25–27).

C)The last time *mysterion* is found is in 1 Timothy 3:16, where Paul says,

great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.

Paul said **"Great is this mystery,"** "that Jesus, who was victorious over the Enemy, he never succumbed to any temptation personally,

A)who was justified by the Father as the voice from heaven rang out audibly,

B)and yet is One who can relate to you and me personally.

C)This same Jesus was received up into glory and returned to us through His Spirit."

1)His spirit is living in us to help us

C)Great is the mystery of Godliness **Christ dying for us, living within us, relating to us, we can be sure we'll make it**

1)"This is the mystery," said Paul. "Jesus will establish you because He lives in you." What wonderful comfort.

²⁷ to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.