

# Marking those Who Contradict Sound Doctrine is Part of Making Disciples

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*Romans Series*

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**Bible Text:** Romans 16:17-20; 2 Peter 2

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All right. Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Romans chapter number 16. And once you have found your place if you will turn to Romans 16. Romans 16. Once you find your place if you will stand, please. Verse 17, please.

Paul writes to the Church at Rome in this final chapter of this incredible epistle.

“Now,” present tense, right now. “I beseech you,”<sup>1</sup> so the Church at Rome.

I beseech you brethren [brothers and sisters in Christ] mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For [we are going to get some reasons now] For they that are such serve [notice please] not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly [carnal appetites] and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet [contrast] I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

Let's pray.

*Father, we are going to study your Word this morning. We are going to be engaged by truth this morning. We are going to exalt and lift up Jesus and we are going to do our very best to figure out how this text applies to us and to this church. We are going to do that under the leadership and hopefully the guidance and direction and filling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen.*

You may be seated.

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 16:17.

<sup>2</sup> Romans 16:17-20.

Please notice three conjunctions. Now is the beginning of the admonishment.

“Now I beseech you...”<sup>3</sup>

Notice verse 18 the word “for” and notice verse 19 the word “for” and in verse number 20 the word “and.” This helps me understand that I have got a complete thought right here that begins in verse number 17 and culminates with the word “amen” in verse number 20. I need to look at it as a text. I need to look at it as a group. I need to preach through these verses beginning with this word “beseech.”

This word “beseech” reminds you of the word “comforter,” παρακλητος (par-ak’-lay-tos). So the beseeching is an encouragement.

“I want to encourage the body of Christ,” Paul says. “I need to encourage you. I need to encourage you in a good way, in a positive way that you would mark them that cause offense or divisions. Point them out. Identify them. Know who they are. Mark them. Mark them which cause divisions. Mark them which are causing offenses in the body of Christ. Identify those people in the body of Christ that are causing divisions, causing offenses.”

We have two applications of this text. We have a primary application. The primary application is to the local assembly right here, the local assembly that is coming to these four walls—or however many we have in this auditorium, in this odd shaped building—this local assembly. That is the primary application. Paul told the Church at Rome to those in the church, look of them. If there is someone in that church that is causing division, teaching things that are contrary to the Word of God, identify them. Point them out. Mark them. Know who they are.

Now, because of the world we are living in and even in Paul’s day there was a secondary application. And that secondary application is identifying those who even outside the walls of Christ, but under the umbrella of Christianity, under this huge umbrella of Christianity, anyone who names the name of Jesus—and that is a large umbrella—in that, under that umbrella identify them as well. Point them out as well. Know who they are as well. So a primary and a secondary application.

Paul said it like this to Titus on the island of Crete. He said, “A man that is an heretick [a man that is divisive among you, a man that is causing division among you, a man that is causing heretical doctrine, teaching it, he said] after the first and second [admonishment] reject.”<sup>4</sup>

First and second admonishment. You remember that from Matthew chapter 18. If there is an offense it is one on one, right? That is the first admonishment. If that doesn’t work, if one on one doesn’t work then what does Jesus tell us in verse 15, 16, 17? Go with him two or three. So in this case if you have got a man in the body of Christ or a woman in

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 16:17.

<sup>4</sup> Titus 3:10.

the body of Christ who is teaching doctrine that is contrary to the Word of God, you would go to them one on one and say, “Hey, brother, you have got to stop teaching this. It is contrary to the Word of God for the following reasons.”

If that doesn’t work and the man continues to promote this divisive or heretical doctrine then you are to take two or three to him and say, “Here it is right here.”

Paul says, “If that doesn’t work, reject him, reject him, reject him.”

“Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”<sup>5</sup>

Paul said, finishing the verse in verse number 17, look at it with your own Bible, “... to the doctrine which ye have learned,”<sup>6</sup> that which is contrary to the teaching that you learned.

So sometimes a person will say to me, “Preacher, when I come to church I feel like I am in a classroom.”

Amen. That means I did my job to some degree. You are learning. We are supposed to be teaching. There is supposed to be instruction going on.

What is the mission of the Church? Let’s to two slides for the mission of the Church. Number one, the mission of the Church is to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to proclaim the good news that Christ died for your sins. You don’t have to die in your own sins. Your sins can be forgiven and you can be reconciled to God through what? Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is our primary mission. We are to proclaim that gospel.

But it doesn’t stop there. The Great Commission expands that and says, “Go ye therefore into all the world teaching them, teaching them.”

There is supposed to be a component of teaching that happens in the local New Testament church. Teaching all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. And then notice verse number 20.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded.”<sup>7</sup>

If you come to church week after week and whatever church you have attended in the past, or whatever one you will attend in the future and you don’t find yourself learning, your church is not doing what it is supposed to do. If you don’t know more this year than you did last year, if you don’t know more this year than you did two years ago, then something is broke either on my end delivering or your end on learning. But something is

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<sup>5</sup> Titus 3:11.

<sup>6</sup> Romans 16:17.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 28:20.

clearly broke, because a Bible believing, Christ exalting, gospel preaching church is supposed to have a component of teaching.

So here is our ultimate objective then. We are going to make disciples. We are going to make disciples to the glory of God. That starts with conversion. That starts with sharing the good news so that Chris Bowler can go from being a man on his way to hell to a man who has been born again through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But what a minute. We are not done with Chris. We are not done at that point. We are not finished. Check the block. He is going to heaven. Don't have to worry about him anymore.

No. According to the Great Commission Chris is to be baptized. And after he has been baptized he is to be taught the Word of God systematically, deliberately, consistently so that he moves as a disciple of Christ. No stagnant water, moving, moving, growing.

Something is broke in your relationship with the dear Lord Jesus Christ if you don't know more today than you did yesterday and the day before and the day before and the week before and the month before and the year before. You are to be learning. We could graph it on a bar graph and you would find I am more aware of truth this year than I was last year. That is why your boys and girls should be in an Awana program, because in the Awana program they would get Scripture and the Scripture is going to help them.

So as I see it, this is my perspective as the shepherd of this church, one component of this teaching ministry that I have, this making disciples is to tell you there is wolves out there. There is wolves out there. When you leave these four walls there is wolves out there. They are out there. They are ready to devour you. They are ready to consume you.

Oh, it won't be a physical devourment. It will be a mental devourment. It will be a spiritual devourment.

Paul said it like this, again, to Titus on the island of Crete, he said, "Titus, when you are looking for pastors, elders, bishops, overseers of the local churches make sure the men have these qualifications. Make sure that they hold fast to faithful words as they have been taught. Make sure that they are able to take sound doctrine," notice, please, look at it, please. "Exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

The first time I said that word about three or four weeks ago maybe it was a month ago I said, "Gay slayers." The preachers just wore me out over the gay slayers. It is not gay slayers. It is gainsayers.

Now that is not a word that we use very often, gainsayers. I don't use that in my daily vocabulary. How many use that on a regular basis? Gainsayers.

No, it is this person who contradicts sound doctrine. It is a person who is opposed to sound doctrine. A gainsayer is someone who contradicts what Paul taught, what the apostles taught, what the Lord Jesus Christ. That is a gainsayer.

Why does Paul tell us to mark them? Why does Paul tell us to avoid them? Why are we to know who they are? Why are we to know who they are and identify them and avoid them and their ministries? Why? Because of what verse 18 says.

These men don't serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Now you need to understand the reason they are called wolves in sheep's clothing is they say they serve the Lord Jesus Christ. They say that. They name the name of Jesus on their ministry, on the television, on the internet. They name the name of Jesus.

But Paul says, "These people do not serve. They don't serve the Lord Jesus Christ. They serve their own belly."

Now, obviously, not a physical belly in this sense. It is their carnal appetites, their carnal appetite for more and more and more. They are never satisfied. They can't make enough money. They can't drive a nice enough car. They have to have one plane. They need two planes. If they don't need a plane, they don't have one. They need another one or a first one. They are never satisfied. They serve their carnal appetites. These people use the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to make money.

Jesus said it like this. Matthew 7:15. That is a visual. It is very on purpose. I want you to get this.

Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."<sup>8</sup>

Oh, yes, when you zip it up they look like a sheep. And they walk around looking like a sheep, sounding like a sheep. They are going to wear sheep's clothing, carry a sheep's Bible, preach about sheep things, wear a cross around their neck or some type of thing that really says, "That must be a godly man."

But if you were able to take zipper and peel it down like that, you would find a wolf.

Do you want a wolf? I will show you a wolf. Trinity Broadcasting Network is one huge wolf, just one huge wolf. Just wolf after wolf after wolf on television all day long robbing God's people with every single penny they can think of because they live in ungodly homes, 18 and 20 bedroom homes, 10 and 15 bathrooms, two and three, 4000 dollar suits, gold everywhere, driving only the best of vehicles, jumping from conference to conference and spending thousands upon thousands of dollars on meals and lodging and all kinds of stuff, just ripping God's people off, fleecing them for all they have got, telling them lies upon lies upon lies and broke people who barely can afford to make it from week to week are writing checks under some ridiculous prosperity gospel nonsense.

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 7:15.

Somebody says, “Well, I am feeling really uncomfortable right now. I cannot believe that we are calling people out like this. I can’t believe that we are identifying television networks.”

You need to understand that for every true prophet that is using short wave radio to get into a country, there is a false prophet that is doing the same thing. You need to understand that for every Christian website that is proclaiming truth, there is a false website that is proclaiming heresy. You need to recognize that God’s preachers must identify this for God’s people because they need to wake up to the reality that there are people who will these walls. They will go on a television station. They will flip through channel after channel after channel after channel after channel and be infiltrated with their minds unto false nonsense.

So my responsibility as your pastor, chief disciple maker, if you will, is to make sure that you, as you are flipping channels can go, “Wolf, wolf, wolf.”

And let me say something. When you are on Trinity Broadcasting Network this is what you do. Wolf unless proven otherwise, not sheep unless proven otherwise. Wolf unless you can see it otherwise, because that entire ministry is ripping people off.

Preacher, someone says, “Preacher, I don’t agree with this calling out names stuff. I am uncomfortable with that.”

You would be uncomfortable with Paul, then, too, because Paul said, “Alexander.” And if you are not sure what Alexander the coppersmith. That clarifies it. Just in case you weren’t sure what Alexander we are talking about, we are talking about the coppersmith. That is to make sure everybody knows what Alexander we are talking about.

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works.”<sup>9</sup>

That is harsh. Lord, give him what he deserves. That is what he is saying. Notice, please. “Beware of him.”

Why? Why do we need to beware of him?

“For he hath greatly withstood our words.”<sup>10</sup>

Oh, oh, we are not talking about immorality. We are not talking about unethical conduct. That is not what we are talking about. This is a battle for words. Words matter. Doctrine matters. Truth matters. Any old words doesn’t work. Some words are true and some words are false. All words are not equal. All doctrine is not equal. There is false

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<sup>9</sup> 2 Timothy 4:14.

<sup>10</sup> 2 Timothy 4:15.

doctrine and there is true gossip, ah doctrine. There is a false gospel and there is a true gospel.

Often times you will hear people talk about a spiritual warfare and you think they are describing demons in the sky. Let me tell you something right now. We are wrestling with worldviews. We are wrestling with proper perspective on Christian doctrine.

Verse number 18. And these men now with their carnal appetites notice hat they do, please.

“...and by good words and fair speeches...”<sup>11</sup>

What do they do? They deceive. They slip in. Oh, it sounds good. It sounds great. Oh, they love it. They flip through the channel, watch it on their flat screen, clever words coming across, just enough truth so that it sounds good, enough truth mingled in there so that it seems like oh this must be good. And because God’s people are simply simple minded, naïve, have not been properly taught, have not been properly disciplined, they fall hook, line and sinker all the way in like a fish that is going after. It has no idea that that line is going to take them to pole and that pole is going to jerk them out of the water and they will never be there again. No different. No different.

You say, “Preacher, why does this happen? Why are they simple minded?”

I will tell you why they are simple minded, because the pastors of the churches that they are in don’t feed the people. On Sunday mornings they don’t give them steak. They give them cute little topical sermonettes that make them feel good and everyone goes out to church.

You want a plate. We are going to Ryan’s. Pack it on there. Add some more on there. Bread crumbs are falling out. Man, I need a plate full of food this morning. Don’t give me a little dish of ice cream. Man, I will eat the ice cream, but I am having a steak first, a potato, some ice cream, some rolls. We are going to get a good meal.

Paul said it like this.

“ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in...”<sup>12</sup>

Grievous wolves, teeth showing, growling, going after God’s people, taking them down like a wolf tears down a lamb, ripping him apart limb by limb and the lamb doesn’t stand a chance.

Do you know why the lamb doesn’t stand a chance? Because the lamb hasn’t been properly taught. The lamb hasn’t been properly trained.

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 16:18.

<sup>12</sup> Acts 20:29.

You say, "How do wolves enter in among us today?"

Though the power of the internet, through the power of FM radio, through the power of a podcast, through the power of satellite television, through the power of cable television, through the power of news networks, through the power of this show and that show. That is how they are entering in among us and they filter into our worldview. They filter into what we hear and what we take in. But there is no wolves in here. Wolves are after us every single day of the week, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A wolf is after you and your family ready to tear your family apart and get you to think something different.

"But, preacher, when I leave the church I want to feel good and I just don't feel so good some of these messages. I don't feel really feel good. I need to feel good."

Paul predicted that. Paul said it would come, the time would come, brother Garrett, Paul said the time will come, the heap to themselves teachers to tell them what they want to hear, give them the cute little messages.

Let me tell you all about how your marriage can be better. Let me tell you how to invite this and this and this. And you don't even hear the truth of the gospel that your sins have separated you from a holy righteous God and he is not ok with you.

Because the problem with that message is it doesn't feel very good. It doesn't feel very good that God is not ok with my pornography, that God is not ok with that sin. That is why we are having a conference Friday and Saturday beginning at 7 PM, men of integrity conference. Every single male that is sitting right here needs to be here unless you are providentially hindered which is not x-box 360. That is not NFL. Providentially hindered means you don't have any choice. God has superimposed a governing authority on your life and that governing authority has established you need to be there, because every single male battles with this issue and that issue and we want to help you get the victory.

But Sunday morning messages are designed to teach and preach God's Word to God's people to equip them to be able to go, "Wolf, wolf," to know what a wolf is, to know what a wolf says and know what a wolf smells like, talks like, walks like.

But having itching ears they will heap to themselves teachers. And they will tell them what they want to hear.

It is kind of like this. Church has become Burger King. Have it my way. No longer do Christians take out a list of paper and identify all the sound doctrine that they need in their church. They go from church to church to church shopping and they ask themselves, "How did I feel at the end of that sermon? How did I feel at the end of that service? How did I feel after that one?"

And they rate it on a scale of one to 10 and whichever one they felt best at is the one they joined.



What you need to be asking yourself is does the preacher preach the Word of God? If I don't feel good, why not?

But this is where we are at. You have the right to have it exactly as you want it because on the menu you are today's special and tomorrow's and the day after that. And, well, well, you get the idea. Yes, that is right. We may be the king, but you are the almighty ruler. And that is where most Christians are at.

He might be the king. I mean, I subscribe to that Lord of lords stuff, but I am the boss. I am the boss. I will call the shots. I will go to whatever church I feel good at. I want the music to uplift me and encourage me and get me pumped up and then a cute little sermonette that just tells me how to have a great week, culminating in a little smiley face on the way out.

So what constitutes sound doctrine? Let me give you four slides that constitute sound doctrine. You should know this already, but let me remind you.

Number one, anything that deals with the triune godhead. Anything that takes away with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, anything that suggests that that God isn't who he is, anything that suggests that God doesn't have the attributes, anything that takes away from his sovereignty, his deity, anything that takes away from who Jesus is, anything that makes Jesus more than he is or less than he is, anything that magnifies the Holy Spirit above the other two in the person and of the godhead, anything that deals with the trinity is off limits, off limits. Modified in any way, shape or form and you just crossed the line, heresy. Cross the line. No alternatives.

Let me just stop for just a second right now. It is not an accident. Let me say that again, please. Listen to me very closely. It is not an accident that Glen Beck who is a Mormon is becoming more and more popular every single day. Let me make sure you clearly understand that. Mormonism is out of the pit of hell. Let me make sure that you clearly understand that Joseph Smith is not another prophet, ok? He is a false teacher. He is a... he was. He is dead now. And he knows for sure that the was a false prophet. He is not wondering at this point.

And what is happening right now is many Christians are falling hook, line and sinker after Glen Beck and he becomes more and more and more popular. Auditoriums where he goes and speaks are filled with, quote, born again Christians who don't mind the fact that he worships a false god.

You say, "Preacher, he doesn't worship a false god."

He does if he doesn't declare that Jesus is the Son of God who does not have a half brother.

You better watch it. We need to be able to recognize wolves going around building a following, setting the conditions for a Mormon president, setting the conditions for normalizing the relationship the evangelical church has with Mormonism, setting the conditions for what? A future antichrist to rise up.

And am I saying he is? No, I am not. No, I am not. I have no clue who he is, but I know that conditions must be set for the full and complete revelation of the antichrist. And people are falling madly in love with the man because he talks about the almighty dollar.

Anything that deals with the Bible, anything that denies the infallibility, the inspiration, the preservation, the canonization, anything that deals with taking away the 66 canonical books, anything that takes away from God's work in the Hebrew, God's work in the Greek, God's work in the Aramaic and God's divine preservation into modern languages, off limits. Anything that deals with who made man, anything that takes away from God spoke Adam into existence in a millisecond, not over thousands upon thousands of years.

Anything that deals with how man was created or who suggests otherwise. Anything that deals with Genesis one and two is off limits. Anything that deals with man's depravity, anything that takes away from the fact that I cannot save myself, that I am born dead, dead, dead, dead, in need of regeneration, a gift of God, anything that suggests I have a divine spark within me, anything that suggests that I am pretty decent person is off limits. I was conceived in iniquity. Anything that deals with getting away from man's purpose in life which is ultimately to glorify King Jesus.

And, finally, anything that deals with getting rid of gender distinctions or sexual orientation, anything that gets rid of men were men and women were women, designed to love each other and nothing else, no cross dressing, nothing. All off limits.

If there is someone out there, mark them and avoid them.

And number five or four, rather. Anything that takes away from the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anything at all, anything that suggests that there is anything but exclusivity in Jesus Christ, anyone who suggests that there are multiple ways to get to the Father, off limits. Mark them heretical. Anything that suggests that there is something you must do, you must believe, believe, have faith. There isn't anything that you have got to do to get saved.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy...”<sup>13</sup>

His mercy.

My faith is in a promise, not in what I have done myself.

It is not in baptism. It is not in prayer. It is not in church membership. Anything that takes away from repentant faith alone, anything at all that teaches that man can be saved

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<sup>13</sup> Titus 3:5.

by anything other than the cross of Jesus Christ, anything that deals with the virgin birth, anything that deals with the sinless life, anything that deals with the death, burial and resurrection and the full and complete bodily resurrection 40 days alive, ascending to be with the Father on the right hand interceding. You touch any of that stuff and it is off limits.

You can put a huge open parenthesis and close parenthesis around it and mark it off limits. Faith alone, Christ alone, grace alone to the glory of God alone. All God.

And, by the way this morning, if that is not your testimony put your faith in Christ right now. Right now wherever you are seated right now, put your faith in Christ.

You say, "I have never understood that before."

Do it right now. Identify right now that you are a sinner, separated from a holy and righteous God and outside of the work of Christ you have no hope for heaven. Put your faith in Christ right now.

What does that mean? Start trusting in Christ right now. Declare right now that in and of yourself you have no way of saving yourself and in your own thought process, in your dependency, it is Christ and Christ alone.

You say, "Can I do that right now?"

Yes. Yes, sir. You can do that sitting right where you are at.

Remember, remember, Berean Baptist Church, the reason we exist is to find pagans and move them to worshippers of the one true God. Pagans. I was born a pagan, born a heathen. Outside of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that is who I am, a pagan. Prone to worship myself, an idolater right out of the womb, inherently selfish. That is idolatry. It is where we worship ourselves more than the Creator, Romans chapter number one.

Jesus said it like this. He said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."<sup>14</sup>

Many are being deceived. So let's go over them. I am calling them out right now for the body of Christ. Modern gainsayers, modern gainsayers.

Here is my list. Number one, Roman Catholicism. Why? Because they teach that you must be baptized, you must take communion, you must do other things to be saved. It is not grace alone. That is the entire Protestant Reformation. That is Roman Catholicism. Roman Catholicism because they teach that you can pray to Mary. They teach that she is the mother.

She is not the mother of God. She was a vessel, temporarily used to harbor the God man.

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<sup>14</sup> Matthew 24:11.

I am going to call out one is Pentecostalism. One is Pentecostalism because they deny the triune godhead. We preached an entire two messages on that on a Sunday night and it is on SermonAudio. There are local oneness Pentecostal churches in this town that teach that God is not a separate being, a separate person from the Son, that the Son was the Father, the Son and the Spirit all in one. Sin.

I am going to call out Jehovah Witnesses because Jehovah Witnesses are false in every way, shape or form. We spent three or four weeks on that.

Mormonism, same idea. Mormonism teaching that Jesus is the half brother and all kinds of other mess, teaching that you can get saved through doing good works, teaching that there is layers of heaven, teaching that people can get baptized for dead people, just on and on and on. You could preach an entire message on that.

Now number five let's talk about the Word Faith Movement. Do you remember the Word Faith Movement? We did three Sunday night messages on the Word Faith Movement. These are the guys that say, "Wallet, be full." These are the ones that teach that the only reason you have got Alzheimer's is because you don't have enough faith to whip it and if you just had more faith you could whip it. That is a lie out of the pit of hell.

People don't have Alzheimer's because they don't have enough faith. Alzheimer's is a result of the fall of man. It is a consequence of having sin on this earth. It is not a plague. We have got a godly man in our congregation that is battling it and I don't know of a more godly man. It is not a matter of not enough faith. That is a lie. Not any different than looking at this wallet. It has only got a couple of dollars and say, "Be full. Be full. Be full."

Let me tell you something. You can scream "Be full" to your wallet all day long, but you could go get a job if you want to work. It is ridiculous.

Next, the prosperity gospel. The prosperity gospel is the ridiculous teaching that Jesus died on a cross so that your small business could prosper. Jesus died on a cross so that your sins can be forgiven and you can be reconciled to a holy and righteous God who has no tolerance for sin.

Next, baptismal regeneration. I am going to call out the Church of Christ and any other denomination that tells you you must be baptized in order to be saved, that there is something sanctified about entering those waters. And when you enter those waters that you, in fact, get saved by entering those. That is baptismal regeneration. The idea that getting baptized makes you alive again. That is heresy. Heresy.

Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone. Don't add to it in any way, shape or form, no joint effort.

Obviously the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender movement, the agenda that is infiltrating government, schools, public libraries, NPR. Yes. I am calling it out. Bible told me mark and avoid them. Identify them. Identify them for God's people.

Planned Parenthood, same agenda. Avoid it.

Now charismatics who teach that speaking tongues gives you an assurance of salvation.

Any time you take salvation and you tag anything with it, it is off limits. It is off limits. Put the parenthesis around salvation. We don't add baptism to it. We don't add the sign gifts to it. We don't add anything to it. It is God and God alone. We don't add anything to it. It is off limits.

Faith is trusting in a promise. It is relying upon the Word of God.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord...”<sup>15</sup>

Not and do this and do that. It is just relying on the name of the Lord as your Savior.

Art, take us to the next slide while I find that clicker.

Turn to 2 Peter chapter number two in case you guys are thinking I am making a big deal out of something that is not a big deal.

Some of you have concluded the preacher is overreacting this morning, getting hot and bothered about something that is really not that important.

Turn to 2 Peter chapter number two, please. Listen to the Word of God. And these are powerful verses. We could come back and just preach this entire chapter on another day. I just want to read it to you, get you to enjoy it this morning like I enjoy it.

Hear the Word of the Lord this morning.

Peter writes to us and he says:

“But there were false prophets also among the people.”<sup>16</sup>

So from the very beginning, from the days of Noah there has always false prophets.

“...even as there shall be false teachers among you.”<sup>17</sup>

So there are false teachers alive right now. Look in your own Bible please.

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<sup>15</sup> Romans 10:13.

<sup>16</sup> 2 Peter 2:1.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

“...who privily [or privately] shall bring in [what kind of heresies?] damnable heresies.”<sup>18</sup>

That language sounds pretty harsh to me, folks. Damnable heresies. It doesn't seem to me like it is kind of ok. You feel like what you want to feel like. I will feel like what I want to feel like. We can kind of agree to disagree.

No, no, no. We can agree to disagree on whether Chevy or Ford makes a better truck. We are not going to agree or disagree on whether Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You need to walk away with the understanding: You are wrong and I am right.

“...damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them.”<sup>19</sup>

The very Lord that died on a cross, that atoned for their sins, the Lord that bough them, they deny.

“...and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom [please notice. Look at the next four words in your Bible:] the way of truth...”<sup>20</sup>

Definite article, Dr. Wilson, definite article, not a way of truth, the way of truth, the way of truth, not suggesting that there are multiple ways of truth and you can pick your own way and you can pick your own way. There is one way of truth, definite article, T H E.

“...shall be evil spoken of.”<sup>21</sup>

And notice, please, look verse three. This is so good. You have got to see it, please, in your own Bible.

“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”<sup>22</sup>

Wow. This is good. It is amazing. It is amazing to me that the apostle Peter looked into the 21<sup>st</sup> century under the divine inspiration of God the Holy Spirit and said, “Look forwards 2000 years. There will be people who make merchandise of God's people, merchandise.”

Don't miss this. Wake up and hear these words this morning. There are preachers, false prophets, who see you as nothing but merchandise. You are a commodity to be traded on the spiritual Wall Street. And all they do with feigned words... Do you know what feigned words are? Pretend words, pretend words, pretend words. These people are not

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> 2 Peter 2:1-2.

<sup>21</sup> 2 Peter 2:2.

<sup>22</sup> 2 Peter 2:3.

genuine Christians. They just are telling something and then they go back in their back room and then laugh about the stupid Christians.

You think I am exaggerating? It is right here in the Word of God. Make merchandise of you. They don't see you as a soul in need of redemption. They don't see you as sheep in need of a shepherd. They don't cry over their people. They see wallets. They see credit cards. That is all they see. They make merchandise of God's people.

Very clear.

“And through covetousness...”<sup>23</sup>

You know what covetousness is, right? It is never satisfied, John. Covetousness is never satisfied. They have got a 12 bedroom house and they hear about preacher so and so that has got a 20 bedroom house so they covet the 20 bedroom house. And when they get the 20 bedroom house they covet the fact that they don't have a helicopter. And when they get a helicopter they covet the fact that they don't have a plane. And when they get a plane they covet something else. And they never stop coveting. And for them, for them who bring in damnable heresies you, my dear friend, through the television, through the internet, through whatever mechanism they can reach you are nothing but merchandise, a commodity to be traded from church to church.

“For if God...”<sup>24</sup> Here it comes now. We are going to see four “and” “and” “and.” Here it comes, massive run on sentence. You have got to love this.

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; [not done] And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And [we are not done yet] turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrhah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And [not done yet only] delivered just Lot, [not done yet]... the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and [reading in verse number nine] and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.<sup>25</sup>

I am not done.

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> 2 Peter 3:4.

<sup>25</sup> 2 Peter 3:4-7, 9.

of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.<sup>26</sup>

My Bible tells me I am not making too big of a deal of this. My Bible tells me I am not over reacting. My Bible tells me that it is impossible to talk too strongly about these people who are ripping God's people off. My Bible is tells me that God doesn't have any patience for this. My Bible tells me that God has their number. He has their number, because if the angels didn't get by—and they didn't—and the old world didn't get by—and it didn't—and Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped off the face of the planet—and it didn't—then God knows the day and time that these frauds who are ripping God's people off will get what they deserve.

All right. Next slide please.

Paul says, "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore."<sup>27</sup>

Paul is concerned.

"Yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."<sup>28</sup>

Paul is concerned about these new converts that are open to anything. He said, "I appreciate the fact that you have got a passion to be obedient, but be careful. Be careful."

What happened, Art?

All right. Let's wrap it up.

You need some encouragement? I need some encouragement. Could you use some encouragement this morning? Raise your hand if you could use some encouragement about hearing about all these false prophets and, yeah, me, too. Don't put it up, Art. Don't worry about it. I got it.

I am going to give you some encouragement. I am going to give you some legitimate encouragement that you can take out the door right now, that you can carry it with you. I want you to look at verse number 20 in your Bible. I am going all the way back to Romans and finishing up with this one little sentence right here.

Please look at it in your own Bibles since I can't get it on the screen. Romans chapter 16 verse number 20.

I don't want to tell it to you until you see it in your own Bible. There is a promise there and you have got to see it. And then we will be done.

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<sup>26</sup> 2 Peter 2:10-12.

<sup>27</sup> Romans 16:19.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.



Romans chapter 16 verse number 20. You need some encouragement about these false prophets, about these to avoid? I do. You need some encouragement about the future of America? I do. Could you use some encouraging words? I could. But I want to give you good encouragement. I want to give you godly encouragement. Let me give it to you with Paul's words instead of my own words.

Look at verse number 20 with the conjunction "And." Oh, glory to God. And... And...

"And the God of peace..."<sup>29</sup>

He has got a plan. Look at your Bible, please. Look at your Bible.

The God of peace shall do what?

"...shall bruise Satan..."<sup>30</sup>

Bruising Satan reminds me of Genesis 3:15 where there is a promise. There is a promise that the head will be bruised, but bruised it might not give us the strong enough words here. Sometimes a bruise, Dave, is a little small mark. That is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about, Jay, a lot more than bruised. It is kind of like to what you do with a cockroach. Come on. You have been there before. Ever kill a cockroach before? You go over that thing with a passion. And some of you have got those pointed boots. What do they call those boots? You know, where you get into the corners real good?

And then you see that cockroach and it is you and the cockroach and he is not going to make it. And you are chasing that cockroach down and he is moving, scurrying as fast as can be and you find him and then, wham, and there it is, guts and nothing is left of that cockroach. That is what God is going to do to Satan some day. Amen. Amen. You can be encouraged on that. You can be encouraged on that. You can be encouraged that he is going to scurry away, but there is no way he can get away. You can be encouraged that God has got the best cowboy boots on in the world and there is not a single corner that he can't get to. You can be encouraged in the fact that Alzheimer's is not going to go on into eternity. You can be encouraged that arthritis is not going into eternity. You can be encouraged that lust is not going into eternity. You can be encouraged that divorce is not going into eternity. You can be encouraged that there is not a false prophet in heaven. You can be encouraged that there won't be a political party in heaven. You can be encouraged that Fox News won't be in heaven. You can be encouraged. You can be encouraged that the God of peace will crush Satan shortly.

You are in a miserable marriage? You are in a miserable marriage and you are enduring through this, be encouraged. You won't be in that miserable marriage in heaven. Be encouraged. You are losing it every day. Be encouraged. You are going to get a new mind in heaven. Your knees hurt like mine do when I run? I am doing this March

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<sup>29</sup> Romans 16:20.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

madness running. Yes. Be encouraged. You are getting some new knees. Algebra makes your head hurt? Mine, too. Be encouraged. No algebra in heaven.

Yeah. Are we making light of something? No. No, we are looking forward to a glorious time.

Now there might be algebra, but if there is algebra we are all going to get it. We are all going to get it. We need some encouragement. We need some encouragement. Dysfunctional families in either you were one in, you are in one now or you are going to be in one. I mean, that is kind of all of us, right? You were one in, you are in now or you are going to be, but we are all dysfunctional to some sense. There is some encouragement out there. There is no dysfunctional families in heaven.

Let's pray.

Do you this morning right now need to put your faith in Christ?