

“For Your Obedience is Known To All ”  
Romans 16:17-20

- *“I appeal to you, brothers....”* (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 15:30; Philemon 1:10).
  - Paul is making a very serious and emotional request to his brothers in Christ. There is a great severity to the church in not taking this action. Pay attention to this request.
  - To love someone is to desire the highest spiritual good for them. In doing this, you must warn those you love of danger.
- *“To watch out for those who....”*(Philippians 3:18-19; Acts 20:27-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-6; 2 Peter 2:1)
  - To watch, is to consider closely, to mark, to look upon intently, to analyze (telescope, microscope) these individuals.
  - Paul is guaranteeing there will be false teachers. He is also guaranteeing there will be many false teachers.
  - We must watch out for those who attack the clear teaching of Scripture or the reliability and trustworthiness of Scripture (Galatians 1:6; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 14:37-38).
- *“Who cause divisions and create obstacles....”*
  - The Holy Spirit unites us (Ephesians 4:3) and Satan desires to divide us. We fight as Christians to sustain or maintain unity, not create it (Ephesians 4:1-2).
  - The word for “obstacles” means to create snares and traps that you don't see coming (2 Timothy 2:26).
- *“Contrary to the doctrine you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ....”*
  - Becoming obsessed with arguing with people about theological error can lead to practical uselessness. We must teach what is true, address what is untrue, and then avoid those who continue to teach another gospel (2 Timothy 2:24-25; 1 John 4:5-6; Jude 1:3-4).
    - *The non-negotiable categories are Jesus (100% God and 100% man; sinless; perfect; atoning sacrifice; second person of the Godhead), the Gospel (Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone), the Bible (sufficiency and inerrancy), and the clear biblical teaching of what is sin.*
  - All Christians are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), that is we have no autonomy (self-governance apart from the authority of God) from Christ (Romans 2:3-11) and we are all slaves of either sin or righteousness (Romans 6:16). We are either serving Christ or self/sin.
- *“(they serve) their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”*  
*“Discernment (judging whether something is biblical or not) is not emotional, it's intellectual.”* (Steven Lawson)
  - *Smooth talk:* winsome, attractive, kind, pleasant, appealing. *Flattery:* To speak with eloquence, incredibly well. *Naive:* one who is gullible or unguarded.
  - Satan desires to deceive. A means that he uses to accomplish this is false teachers (2 Corinthians 11:3-4; John 8:44; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 3:15-18).
- *“For your obedience is known to all....”*
  - The mark of the true Christian is obedience to God's Word (1 Peter 1:14-15; Luke 6:46; James 1:22). Paul was filled with joy over Christians obedience to God's Word (1 John 1:4; 3 John 1:4).
  - We have been called to be wise (discerning) to what is good (sound biblically) and be innocent (unmixed) to what is evil (unbiblical doctrine).

(continued →)

**Worship:** God is For Us (CityAlight)      Grace Alone (Dustin Kensrue)

Be Thou My Vision (Norton Hall Band)

**Closing Song:** I Stand Amazed (Norton Hall Band)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet...”*
    - There will be a day where there will be no divisions and obstacles, there will be no more false teachers, and no more spiritual warfare (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 & 11:13-15; Revelation 20:10 & 21:4).
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**Announcements:**

- NEW YEARS EVE PARTY: Our annual New Years Eve Party will be THIS Friday, December 31st, starting at 7pm, at the Scarberry home (455 South 2nd Street). Please sign-up to bring a snack, finger food, or dessert to the party! Please plan to join us for food, games, and fellowship!
- COMMUNION: Next Sunday, January 2nd, we will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together.