

THE MESSENGER'S FINAL WARNING: MARK DIVISIVE PEOPLE

Romans 16:17-20

1. MARK DIVISIVE PEOPLE AND AVOID THEM (V. 17-18)

- a.) Because they cause division and are stumbling blocks (v. 17)
 - 1.) "Avoid them" = to shun, to turn away from, keep away from, to remove oneself from. Get away from them and have absolutely nothing to do with them.
 - 2.) "Mark them" = keep one's eye on them, to look at, to observe, to focus upon, to contemplate, to scrutinize (Matthew 18:7; Mark 9:42; Luke 11:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 3:3, 10:31-32; 2 Corinthians 6:3; Philippians 1:27)
- b.) Because they do not serve Christ but their own desires (v. 18) (Philippians 3:18-19)
- c.) Because they use smooth talk and flattering words to deceive (v. 18)
(Titus 1:10-11; 2 Timothy 3:5-7)

2. MARK WHAT IS GOOD AND UNTAINTED WITH EVIL (V. 19-20)

- a.) Because you have been obedient until now (Titus 2:12-13; Matthew 20:28; John 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
- b.) Because you must be wise to know what is good
- c.) Because God shall soon give victory over satan
 - 1.) God uses our foot to bruise satan (Luke 10:19; Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4)

"It is easy enough to extinguish a spark if steps are taken at once, but it is almost impossible to extinguish a forest fire."