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Sermon Notes

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The Danger, Nature, Motives, and Defeat of False Teachers

Romans 16:17-20

Introduction: A Modern-Day Parable

JESSE MORRELL HAS WRITTEN A MODERN-DAY PARABLE:

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE LAND CALLED FEEL GOOD THERE WAS A CHURCH. THIS NEW CHURCH WAS CALLED "THE CHURCH OF THE COMFORTABLE AND TOLERANT". VERY RECENTLY THIS CHURCH HIRED A NEW PASTOR, PASTOR PEACE KEEPER, WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM THE SEMINARY OF SMOOTH TALKING.

THE CONGREGATION "OF THE COMFORTABLE AND TOLERANT" LOVED THE NEW PASTOR'S SERMONS. SOME OF THEIR FAVORITES WERE "GOD IS HAPPY WITH EVERYONE", "EVERYTHING IS FINE AND DANDY", AND "THERE IS NOTHING BUT GOOD TIMES AHEAD".

PASTOR PEACE KEEPER ONCE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. HE WRONGFULLY ALLOWED MR. CONSCIENCE INTO THE PULPIT. MR. CONSCIENCE DID NOTHING BUT CALL HUMAN MISTAKES "SINS" AND CALLED THE GOOD FOLKS OF THE CONGREGATION TO "REPENT". MR. CONSCIENCE HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE SEMINARY OF SMOOTH TALKING, AND MAYBE HE SHOULD HAVE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO PREACH. THE CONGREGATION OF THE COMFORTABLE AND TOLERANT WERE SHOCKED AT MR. CONSCIENCES AUDACITY AND ARROGANCE. THEY SAID THINGS AMONG THEMSELVES LIKE "WHO DOES THIS SELF-RIGHTEOUS LEGALIST THINK HE IS COMING AND TALKING TO US LIKE THAT! WHY SHOULD WE ALLOW THIS FALSE PREACHER AMONG US ANY LONGER TO CONTINUE TO PERSECUTE US?"

PASTOR PEACE KEEPER TERRIBLY REGRETTED LETTING MR. CONSCIENCE INTO THE PULPIT. MR. CONSCIENCE HAS BETRAYED THE TRUST HE HAD WITH THE PASTOR. SO PASTOR PEACE KEEPER ASKED MR. CONSCIENCE TO PLEASE LEAVE THE CHURCH, HE WAS NOT WELCOME THERE ANY LONGER. EVERYONE WAS HAPPY THAT MR. CONSCIENCE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE, EXCEPT ONE MEMBER

CALLED HOLY SPIRIT. SO HOLY SPIRIT AND MR. CONSCIENCE LEFT TOGETHER AND AFTER AWHILE NOBODY EVEN NOTICED THAT THEY WERE GONE.

ONCE THINGS WERE BACK TO NORMAL, THE WAY THEY HAD ALWAYS BEEN, EVERYONE WAS HAPPY ONCE AGAIN IN THE LAND CALLED FEEL GOOD. PASTOR PEACE KEEPER CONTINUED TO SUGAR COAT SWEET AND WONDERFUL LIES THAT MADE EVERYONE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SINS AND HEAVILY GUARDED HIS PULPIT FROM ABRASIVE TRUTHS. WHO COULD BLAME HIM? YOU SEE, THE PASTOR LOVED HIS NEW HOME, HIS NEW CHURCH, AND OF COURSE HE LOVED HIS NEW INCOME. HE COULDN'T PUT SUCH PRECIOUS THINGS ON THE LINE! SO HE ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED THAT "THE CHURCH OF THE COMFORTABLE AND TOLERANT" WERE AS SATISFIED AND AS HAPPY AS THEY POSSIBLY COULD BE WHILE THEY SAT IN THEIR COMPLACENCY.

THEY LIVED THE REST OF THEIR DAYS HAPPILY EVER AFTER, THAT IS, UNTIL THEY WERE FINALLY CAST INTO HELL.

I. The Danger of False Teachers

A. Abrupt Warning

1. Some think this was not originally written by Paul... it seems so abrupt
2. Long list of greetings, interrupted by a warning against false teachers
3. BUT Paul does this frequently, so gravely concerned is he about false teachers

Phil 3:2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

4. Paul is about to finish this letter... and he cannot finish without giving this heartfelt warning against Satan's devices

B. Satan a Personal and Worldwide Enemy

1. It is a chilling thought that we have a personal enemy

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

2. It is even more chilling when we consider how powerful Satan is
 - a. Satan may be the most powerful created being in the universe
 - b. Satan is clever, crafty, and vastly more experienced than we are

- c. He is deeply malicious, more vicious than any tyrant that has ever lived
 - i) Adolf Hitler was a cold-blooded, merciless, genocidal killer
 - ii) Josef Stalin was a cold-blooded, merciless, genocidal killer
 - iii) Satan is immeasurably darker and more vicious than them

3. Satan hates the church and will do anything he can to destroy it

Martin Luther, 1529: "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

for still our ancient foe
 Doth seek to work us woe;
 His craft and power are great,
 And, armed with cruel hate,
 On Earth is not his equal.
 Did we in our own strength confide,
 Our striving would be losing

C. Satan's Three Great Weapons

- 1. Worldliness: Enticement to a worldly, lustful, godless life
- 2. Persecution: Attacks by people and world governments against Christians
- 3. False teaching: Attacks on gospel doctrine itself

D. False Teaching the Most Dangerous

- 1. Of the three, false teaching is the most dangerous
- 2. Why? Because of the role of doctrine itself in the Christian life

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

- 3. Therefore Paul constantly upholds the need of church leaders to fight for doctrine

1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

E. Constant Vigilance Needed

- 1. History is full of attacks on sound doctrine
- 2. It may be said that there is not a single significant doctrine of the Christian faith that has not come under attack by false teachers

- a. The inspiration and authority of the Old Testament: attacked by Marcion
 - b. The deity of Christ: attacked by Arius
 - c. Original sin and salvation by grace alone: attacked by Pelagius
 - d. The full humanity of Christ: attacked by the Gnostics and Docetics
 - e. The sovereignty of God in salvation: attacked by the semi-Pelagians
 - f. The inspiration and authority of the whole Bible: attacked by higher critics and liberals
 - g. The Trinity: attacked by Unitarians
 - h. The immanence and active rule of God: attacked by the deists
3. The rogues gallery of false teachers is terrifying
- a. In addition to those already listed
 - b. We also have Joseph Smith: the seer and dowser, who gave birth to Mormonism
 - c. Charles Taze Russell: who started the Jehovah's Witnesses
 - d. Mary Baker Eddy: originator of Christian Science
 - e. Jim Jones, founder of the People's Temple
 - f. David Koresh who sweet-talked a group of people in Waco into fighting the U.S. Government
4. In every age of the church, we can trace out a history of heresy, of the attack of Satan through false teachers

Thus, we need CONSTANT VIGILANCE to maintain doctrinal purity

II. The Techniques of False Teachers

Romans 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

A. False Doctrine

1. Paul says these false teachers attack the doctrines he has taught even here in Romans
2. That is their primary danger... they cause people to question the word of God
3. Paul has laid out carefully a majestic doctrinal structure
4. These people will come and begin to oppose it

Vs. 17 “obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned”

5. The greatest stumbling block is false doctrine

2 Timothy 2:16-18 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

Imagine being told that the resurrection has already happened, and you missed it!!

B. Deception

vs. 18... they deceive the minds of naive people.

1. They trick them, fool them into believing a lie
2. This is the stock and trade of all false teaching
3. The first lie is that the false teacher himself is a godly man who has your best interests at heart
 - a. He has to conceal his real motive, which, as we'll discuss in a moment is fleshly and self-seeking
 - b. He has to trick the people, deceive them, and hide his real intentions
 - c. Paul calls it “putting on a mask”

1 Thessalonians 2:5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-- God is our witness.

- d. This is the essence of being a “hypocrite” which literally means an “actor”
- e. In ancient Greece, they enjoyed plays in which actors used various masks to portray the roles they were playing
- f. Paul says they never did this... they didn't have to conceal their true selves or true motives

g. But Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees “hypocrites”—actors—who looked good on the outside

Matthew 23:27-28 *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.*

4. Behind it is Satan’s alluring deception... he masquerades in enticing forms

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.*

5. Some of the most potent false teachers have very winsome, appealing personalities; they are charismatic in the sense of being good with people, and therefore constantly use deception

C. Smooth Talk & Flattery

1. “Smooth talk” is oratorical skill... fine sounding language

a. Root of word is “kindness” or “goodness”

b. Idea is kindly speech, smooth talk that panders to the ego

Thomas Brooks: “They know sugared poison goes down sweetly; they wrap up their pernicious, soul-killing pills in gold”

c. The seductive woman, the wayward wife uses smooth talk to seduce the young man in Proverbs 7

Proverbs 7:21 *With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.*

Her first weapon is her kindly speech... her smooth words that entice and allure him

Proverbs 7:22-23 *All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose ²³ till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.*

d. So also Absalom used smooth talk to turn the hearts of Israel away from King David

2 Samuel 15:2-6 *[Absalom] would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed*

before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." ³ Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you." ⁴ And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that he gets justice." ⁵ Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶ Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2. Flattery: This is a powerful technique... telling people what they want to hear about themselves

2 Timothy 4:3-4 the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

3. Throughout redemptive history, the people have yearned to be told pleasing lies rather than disturbing truth

Jeremiah 5:30-31 "A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: ³¹ The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?"

Isaiah 30:9-11 These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. ¹⁰ They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. ¹¹ Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

4. The doctrine Paul laid down in Romans tells us the truth, and it confronts us plainly with our sinfulness before telling us the wonderful, good news of our Savior, Christ Jesus, and His saving work on the cross
5. The Biblical doctrines of total depravity, the need we have for a Savior, the deadly danger of sin... these they want nothing to do with
6. "Tell me I'm okay" "Tell me I'm pleasing to God" "Tell me I'm smart, skillful, have great potential, always make wise choices, acceptable just as I am"

Some write books on "Finding the Champion Inside of You"... or teach on how to declare your victory by a word of power

7. Some teachers will oblige the fantasies of our egos, of our PRIDE

8. These teachers will find Bible doctrines that everyone loves and can agree with and they preach ONLY those

9. Jesus warned about these people

Luke 6:26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

10. They achieve this by avoiding all controversies... as one very well-known pastor did when interviewed on Larry King Live

KING: But don't you think if people don't believe as you believe, they're somehow condemned?

Pastor: You know, I think that happens in our society. But I try not to do that. I tell people all the time, preached a couple Sundays about it. I'm for everybody. You may not agree with me, but to me it's not my job to try to straighten everybody out. The Gospel is called the good news. My message is a message of hope, that's God's for you. You can live a good life no matter what's happened to you. And so I don't know. I know there is condemnation but I don't feel that's my place

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, or you don't accept Christ at all?

Pastor: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know...

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

Pastor: Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong. I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God with judge a person's heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

John MacArthur on being a truth teller:

"**Divine truth is more important than anything else.** And do you know why Jesus always escalated the conflict? Because He always spoke the truth. If I ever do end up on Larry King or some other program like that, and somebody says to me, will 'Mormons go to heaven?' I will say 'no'. If they say will the Jews go to heaven, who reject Jesus as messiah? I will say 'no'. Do I want to start a fight? No. Do I want to be resented? No. Do I want to tell the truth? **Yes.** That's the issue. Jesus didn't escalate the conflict by being insensitive. He didn't escalate the conflict by being ungracious. The conflict escalated of itself because he spoke the truth."

So, we have seen the methods of the false teachers: using false doctrines, deception, smooth talk, and flattery

III. The Motives of False Teachers

A. Self-Indulgence: Pandering to the Flesh

vs. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.

“Appetites” = fleshly lusts and desires... the Greek word is literally “belly”... “stomach”

Philippians 3:18-19 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

1. Lust

2 Peter 2:13-14 Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. ¹⁴ With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed-- an accursed brood!

2. Greed

Peter calls them “experts in greed”

Paul says he never had to put on a mask to cover up greed

Paul says

2 Corinthians 2:17 - 3:1 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

- a. These false teachers want what most worldlings want... earthly pleasure, and lots of it
- b. In order to get it, they know they need lots of money
- c. So, they are going to use aberrant theology, smooth talk and flattery to deceive people into giving up their money

The Pastor of one of the largest churches in America recently sent out a fundraising letter employing the “Word of Faith” approach to hustle money from the people:

“Sometimes it is hard for us to grasp that God wants us to prosper in every way...**God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money**, to fulfill the destiny He has laid out for us. One of the most important Biblical principles that shows us **how to prosper** is the principle of sowing and reaping...

As you read this, God may be speaking to your heart. Trust that He will direct you how and where He wants you to **sow your seed**. If you are moved to send **a seed gift in the enclosed reply envelope...**"

Brothers and sisters... this is nothing less than greed in a religious cloak

B. Power and Control

2 Corinthians 11:20-21 In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. ²¹ To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

1. These false teachers also want to dominate, to take over, to control
2. It is a major power trip, an ego ride, to dominate naïve people

IV. The Devastation of False Teachers

Vs. 19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

A. People Deceived

1. False teachers specialize in deceiving people
2. They take advantage of their naiveté and plunder them
3. They leave a trail of confusion and misery, as people's worlds come crashing down

B. People's Progress Halted

1. We are to be on two infinite journeys: internally, to become more and more like Christ; externally, to take the gospel to the ends of the earth
2. Thus the Christian life is like a race we are to be running
3. These false teachers put obstacles in our way; "obstacles" are stumbling blocks...

Galatians 5:7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?

4. Devastating punishment for stumbling blocks

Matthew 18:6-7 whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ "Woe to the world because of its

stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

C. Churches Divided

“they cause divisions”

1. The result of false teaching is always division in the church
2. Some are taken in by the false teaching; others recognize it for what it is and oppose it...thus divisions crop up, and harmony in the church is lost!!

D. Witness Ruined

vs. 19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

1. Paul is clearly concerned about the reputation of the Roman church... they were a famous and strategic church
2. Notice that Paul marks their true conversion by the indicator of OBEDIENCE... they are obeying Christ in a godly lifestyle
3. What better church could Satan attack with all his dark power?
4. Paul doesn't want their witness hurt by these false teachers

E. Innocence Lost

1. Paul says false teachers **deceive the minds of naïve people**
 - a. The word “naïve” literally means “free from evil”
 - b. Free from guile, unsuspecting because they've never been taken
 - c. Like a babe in the woods, like someone wet behind their ears
 - d. They are not wise to the ways of the world, so they assume everyone who speaks of God or Christ must be a friend
 - e. It is really a picture of immaturity here
 - f. The sense of the word is “naïve” to the ways of Satan and of his evil workers
2. In the common use of the word, it meant innocent, pure, undefiled
3. It is used of Christ in Hebrews 7

Hebrews 7:26 *For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

4. It is usually a good thing, and Paul pauses to meditate on the concept

Vs. 19 *Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.*

5. He is reflecting on a state of innocence that he would yearn for in them... and that God will ultimately restore to each of us in heaven

6. BUT it is a sad thing to learn the hard way how evil some men can be

7. It is a loss of innocence and of purity that Paul wants to avoid here

Thus we see the devastation that false teachers can work

V. The Remedy to False Teachers

A. Watch Out

1. Constant vigilance needed

Romans 16:17 *Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.*

Paul “beseeches” “begs” “urges” the Roman church to “mark” false teachers... “keep a careful eye out for them

Illus. Laws now require convicted child molesters to identify themselves to the community in which they live... so that they can be marked out and parents can be warned

As dangerous as these kinds of people are in a community, false teachers are even more dangerous to a church

CONSTANT VIGILANCE and a WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT for sound doctrine is needed:

2. Be willing to FIGHT for sound doctrine

Jude 1:3 *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.*

“Contend for the faith” = fight against false teaching

B. Understand Sound Doctrine

1. Saturate your mind in Paul's doctrine... and in that of all of Scripture
2. Paul says false teachers **deceive the minds of naïve people... so educate yourself and don't be naïve anymore**
3. Know the truth so you can refute error
4. This is what is required of elders

Titus 1:9 [An elder] must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

5. This is what was commended in the Bereans... a godly local congregation

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

6. This is what Christ commended about the church at Ephesus

Revelation 2:2 I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

The best protection against false teachers is to know the truth thoroughly!

C. Avoid These People

1. Paul says to MARK them and AVOID them

Romans 16:17-20 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

2. It is alluring to try to get into debates with false teachers, to try to win the battle of the minds, the chess game of doctrinal controversy
3. Most Christians, however, are going to be damaged by these debates, not helped
4. So Paul urges the Romans to HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH these people

D. The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Vs. 20 The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

1. Our ultimate defense against all attacks of Satan is the grace of Christ
2. Christ's grace is our protection, His power is our high wall, our shield and our rampart

3. Ultimately it is not possible to lead astray the elect, chosen by grace

John 10:5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

Matthew 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible.

4. That is the church's safety ultimately... Christ knows His own sheep, He chose them before the foundation of the world and they can never perish, no one can snatch them out of His hand

VI. The End of Satan's Kingdom

A. Satan: The King of False Teachers

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1. The real source of the lies of false teaching is the devil
2. Satan, the ancient serpent, lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden
3. Jesus says he was a murderer from the beginning, and a liar:
4. Thus behind every false teacher is the devil himself, Satan

B. Paul's Sweet Promise: Personal Triumph

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

1. Though Satan is constantly attacking the church, God's people will ultimately reign triumphant in the world
2. This will God God's doing, for we have not the strength to fight, still less to triumph ultimately
3. SO by the power of ALMIGHTY GOD we will someday soon see Satan crushed under our feet
4. This is a sweet promise from God, an encouragement to keep fighting... Satan is our personal foe, the hater of our souls... he has crafted a world empire both physical and spiritual that has fought your soul every step of the way
5. He has crafted lust and power and materialism and shiny fake jewels and glistening temptations, allurements and enticements

6. He has allured you then accused you
7. He has hated you with a deep, dark and bitten hatred
8. So this will be for you a very personal triumph

THE GOD OF PEACE WILL SOON CRUSH SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET

C. Triumph Absolute

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

1. Not just concerning false teachers
2. But everything Satan has planted in the world
3. Yes, let's start with false teachers... Jesus, talking about the Pharisees said

Matthew 15:13-14 "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

4. But more than that... EVERY SATANIC PLANT will be uprooted

Matthew 13:41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

- a. All wicked people who refuse to believe the gospel of Christ
- b. All wicked temptations
- c. Every trace of evil will be purged entirely from the world and from your soul
5. Then we will take up a taunt and celebrate the demise of the wicked one and his evil minions who have so ruined this beautiful world

D. Triumph Imminent: SOON

1. the devil is enraged at how little time he has left... when the devil was thrown out of heaven and down to the earth:

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

2. We should celebrate it!!!!
3. Christ lets us know the triumph is imminent

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

VII. Application

- A. Be Thankful for Good Teachers Like Paul
- B. Be Saturated in Good Doctrine
- C. Be Vigilant Against False Teachers
- D. Be Confident in Satan's Ultimate Demise
- E. Come to Christ