



“Winning the War”

Romans 16:17-20

September 17, 2023

1. An urgent _____ of war.

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**. [Rom 16:17]

1) Identify _____ teachers. “σκοπέω skopéō, skop-eh'-o”

28 "**Be on guard** for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore **be on the alert**, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. [Act 20:28-31 NASB95]

✳ The seditious _____. “διχοστασία dichostasía, dee-khos-tas-ea”

▶ The _____ - the lawless

- 1 What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin** so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? [Rom 6:1-2 NASB95]
- 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age**, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, [Tit 2:11-13 NASB95]

▶ The _____

- 4 I say this so that **no one will delude you with persuasive argument**. ... 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. [Col 2:4, 8]
- 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to **the tradition of men**, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ... 16 Therefore **no one is to act as your judge** in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- 17 things which are a [mere] shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, **taking his stand on [visions] he has seen**, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, [Col 2:8, 16-18 NASB95]
- 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, **do you submit yourself to decrees**, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all [refer] [to] things destined to perish with use)--in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 **These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, [but are] of no value against fleshly indulgence**. [Col 2:20-23 NASB95]

✳ The _____. “σκάνδαλον skándalon, skan'-dal-on”

▶ A Stumbling block is something contrary to righteousness.

- 1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that **stumbling blocks** come, but woe to him through whom they come! [Luk 17:1 NASB95]
- 41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all **stumbling blocks**, and **those who commit lawlessness**, [Mat 13:41 NASB95]

▶ A Stumbling block promotes _____.

- 14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a **stumbling block** before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit [acts of] immorality. [Rev 2:14 NASB95]

2) Turn _____ from seductive false teaching. "ἐκκλίνω *ekklínō*, ek-klee'-no"

18 For such men are *slaves*, not of our Lord Christ but *of their own appetites*; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. [Rom 16:18 NASB95]

2. The war is a celestial and global _____ against our Creator.

1) Because God's enemies are slaves to their _____ nature.

44 "You are of [your] father *the devil*, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a liar and *the father of lies*. [Jhn 8:44 NASB95]

▶ The devil is the father of _____. [διάβολος *diábolos*, dee-ab'-ol-os] false accuser, devil, slanderer.

▶ The false teachers are slaves to their fleshly _____.

2) Because God's enemies entice others to their _____ nature.

✱ Why can't we all just _____?

▶ Jesus prayed for _____.

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and *they have kept Your word*. ... 8 for *the words which You gave Me* I have given to them; and *they received [them]* and truly understood that *I came forth from You*, and they *believed that You sent Me*. ... 11 "I am no longer in the world; and [yet] they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, *keep them in Your name*, [the name] which You have given Me, *that they may be one even as We [are]*. [Jhn 17:6, 8, 11]

▶ Unity must be built upon _____.

11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. [1Pe 3:11 NASB95]

✱ Why do we not have a formal _____ church?

25 "But *while his men were sleeping*, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. 26 "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. 27 "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ... 29 "But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"" [Mat 13:25-27, 29-30 NASB95]

▶ The sheaves are gathered at the judgment of the _____.

▶ Our unity must be built upon _____.

3) Because of the saints obedience is essential to the _____.

19 For *the report of your obedience* has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. [Rom 16:19]

✱ It brings _____.

▶ Be _____ in what is good.

▶ Be _____ in what is evil.

✱ God crushes Satan under your feet through your _____.

20 The God of peace *will soon crush Satan under your feet*. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. [Rom 16:20 NASB95]

3. The war is won only through the _____ of our Lord Jesus.

▶ 29 For this purpose also *I labor, striving according to His power*, which mightily works within me. [Col 1:29 NASB95]

▶ 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of *the power will be of God and not from ourselves*; [2Co 4:7 NASB95]

▶ 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*. [Col 1:27 NASB95]