

THE BOOK OF ROMANS  
"A Last Look Outward"  
Romans 16:19-20

WHERE WE ARE

1. The last chapter of Romans is clearly one of the most intimate touches into the life of Paul. Here's his heart for many of his friends.
2. Paul has expressed an urgent appeal (v. 17). Moreover, he has identified those who are more sensual than spiritual (v. 18). There is no mincing of words, Paul calls for an outright stand. This is so needed today!
3. Now, consider carefully the closing comments of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:-

1. ROMAN TESTIMONY v. 19a

N.B. Rome had been relatively free from deceivers, yet needed a warning.

- a. Concerned obedience

Deception is best countered by obedience to the truth. What the Romans had was an obedient-faith. Actually, this is the only kind of real faith found in Scripture (cf. 1:5). Paul had already noted the wide acclaim of Roman faith (1:8). It is now repeated. It had actually arrived at "all men" (probably meaning other believers). The verb is only used here in the New Testament.

- b. Concerned rejoicing

Paul could not withhold his sheer delight over the Romans. Hence, he rejoiced "over you" or upon you. God grant this to be true of us all--bringing joy to other believers.

NOTE: 1 Thess. 1:5-10 gives a similar testimony of the church at Thessalonica. May it be true of your (our) church!

2. PAULINE DESIRE v. 19b

The order of the words in this text are important. They are not to be inverted so as to be wise about evil and simple about God. No way! We should be deep in wisdom about our faith; we should be content to be unacquainted with any wisdom which at its root is evil. Darkness cannot unveil darkness!

The noun translated "simple" actually means to be "unmixed." It should be rendered in the three places in the N.T. (cf. Mt. 10:16; here; Phil. 2:15).

3. DIVINE PROMISE v. 20

- a. About God



What a wonderful title this is: "God of peace" (cf. 15:33). He is the God of comfort (2 Cor. 1:3) and the God of grace (1 Pet. 5:10). What a glorious God we serve!

b. About Satan

First acknowledge his existence and activity (cf. Job 1, 2). There is enough in the Bible to establish his reality and work. It all goes back to Gen. 3. The plain allusion is to Genesis 3:15. The verb means to rub together, crush, trample underfoot. Satanic influence and false doctrine will come to an end.

c. About Believers

"Under your feet" is more than an expression. Believers are a sort of extension of our Lord's victory at Calvary. It will all be done "speedily," not soon or shortly. In view of eternity, our battle with Satan is not considered drawn out. The cooperative accent here is worthy of note. It is God Who does the crushing. But it is under "your feet" (cf. 1 Cor. 3:9; Ex. 12:51).

BENEDICTION

Romans 16:20 is a benediction. It is the sort found in all of Paul's epistles (cf. 2 Thess. 3:17, 18). Only His grace saves, keeps, and satisfies. Glory be His infinite Name forever and ever.