

Paul's Cautious Heart

Insights on Romans 16:17-20

Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, June 24th, 2018

A Warning:

(Romans 16:17-19, Matthew 24:24, 2 Timothy 4:3-4)

1. **We need to** _____

- They...

- They...

- They...

- They...

2. **We measure truth** _____

3. **We are committed** _____

- **We need to be...**

- **We need to...**

A Promise:

(Romans 16:20a, Proverbs 12:19)

- **The God of peace** _____

A Prayer:

(Romans 16:20b, 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, Hebrews 4:16)

- **God's grace is** _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 11" of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We pray that this was a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepened friendships and made new friends along the way! The next season of small groups will begin again in the Fall.

Looking Back:

Each week we'll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. We looked at the importance of correct doctrine and belief this past weekend. When was there a time when you were deceived by someone or something? How did you feel after finding out you were deceived?

2. We see God promising to destroy Satan in Genesis 3:15. This promise is reiterated here in Romans 16:20, and we see its ultimate fulfillment in the book of Revelation. What is a promise of God that is very meaningful to you? When have you seen a promise of God come to fruition in your own life?

Each week in "looking back," we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God's Word.

Looking Up:

1. The need for spiritual truth is vital, especially because of our culture and how what we see or hear on a daily basis can influence our beliefs. Adding to this is the fact that as Christ followers we have an enemy whose main goal is to distort truth in our life. How do the descriptions of our enemy in the verses below reinforce our need for spiritual truth?

- **1 Peter 5:8-9, Genesis 3:1-5, John 8:42-44**

How do the verses above differ or align with your previous understanding of our enemy?

2. While we know we have an enemy looking to deceive us, our relationship with God can be our greatest tool to help guide our life. As you read the following verses, jot down anything that reinforces the idea of God wanting to lead or guide us. Share with your group what you see.

- **Psalms 32:8-9, 119:105, Philippians 2:13, John 10:3-4**

Can you think of any other verses that have been especially important in guiding your life?

3. We saw this past weekend the need to be very cautious about false teachers. These are people who cause divisions within the church, put obstacles in the way of people coming to faith or add things to salvation by faith alone, they serve themselves, and use smooth talk and flattery. Of all these things false teachers use, is there one you need to be more careful of than the others?

How can **Philippians 2:1-11** help us if we find ourselves falling into any of these spiritual falsities?

Where are places or people you have seen in our society around us where there has been false teaching which led people astray? How can we practically help each other from falling into false teaching?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Commit to reading God's Word 5x a week throughout the summer to help shape your standard of truth.
- Pray for God to show you one area in your life where you haven't been obedient to him. Submit this area of your life to him, and be obedient.
- Pray about those "gray areas" in your life where you may have compromised on the truth of God's Word. Repent and walk in the truth.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!