

Title: Contradictions - Romans 16 17-27

Read:

¹⁷⁻¹⁸One final word of counsel, friends. Keep a sharp eye out for those who take bits and pieces of the teaching that you learned and then use them to make trouble. Give these people a wide berth. They have no intention of living for our Master Christ. They're only in this for what they can get out of it, and aren't above using pious sweet talk to dupe unsuspecting innocents. ¹⁹⁻²⁰And so while there has never been any question about your honesty in these matters—I couldn't be more proud of you!—I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the real thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus! ²¹And here are some more greetings from our end. Timothy, my partner in this work, Lucius, and my cousins Jason and Sosipater all said to tell you hello. ²²I, Tertius, who wrote this letter at Paul's dictation, send you my personal greetings. ²³Gaius, who is host here to both me and the whole church, wants to be remembered to you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our good friend Quartus send their greetings. ²⁵⁻²⁶All of our praise rises to the One who is strong enough to make you strong, exactly as preached in Jesus Christ, precisely as revealed in the mystery kept secret for so long but now an open book through the prophetic Scriptures. All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God, who got all this started, down to the very last letter. ²⁷All our praise is focused through Jesus on this incomparably wise God! Yes!

Think:

Did you know that the Bible teaches us to kill people? Yep it says we should kill in 2 Chronicles 15:13, where it says "All who would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman." Or how about keeping slaves, yep the Bible teaches that we should have slaves in Leviticus 25:44. It says "Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves." Finally it even says that our parents should beat us. In Proverbs 19:18 it says "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death," OK before you switch off because you think that we at Aftershock have finally lost the plot, this is the type of teaching that Paul is warning against. Paul says "Keep a sharp eye out for those who take bits and pieces of the teaching that you learn and then use them to make trouble." This piece of advice is as true today as it was two thousand years ago, if not more true. The Bible is the best instruction book you could have for living on this earth because it was inspired by the God who created this Earth. But people will take passages and quote them to you out of context. They will take passages and assign to them a meaning that is simply incorrect. They will even make up their own Bible sounding passages and tell you that they are in the Bible. How about "God helps those who help themselves" or "Cleanliness is next to Godliness"? Nope neither of these are in the Bible. When you hear someone say something is from God, it is down to you to check it out and learn to understand it. They may sound like they know what they are saying, but is it really Gods word and is it Gods word for you? That's between you and God. Don't take my word for it. Check it out yourselves

Pray:

Lord please give me the wisdom to tell the difference between wise reflection on your Bible and people who misinterpret your word. Amen.

Action:

Hey guys if you appreciate what we do here at Aftershock why not let us know. Sometimes we need encouraging too. Hey you could even leave a review on iTunes. Bye for now.