Going To Look At 3 Final Instructions

**First, Watch Out (17-18)**

1. Abrupt Shift = From Giving Holy Kisses **(16)** = To Harsh Warning @ Those Who Cause Dissension
   1. ***Seems*** Abrupt = ***But As*** Paul ***Thinking*** Thru List of People He Loves = Inspired To Give Warning
2. Paul & God ***Takes*** Peace & Purity ***of Church*** Very ***Seriously*** = Jealous ***For*** Health & Unity ***of Body*** of Christ
   1. John 17:21—“*That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me*.” = Fundamental Spiritual Unity
   2. 1 Cor 1:10—"*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment*
3. John Stott ***Points Out*** = Paul ***Appealing*** For Three ***Things*** = Vigilance—Separation—Discernment
4. **(17)** Vigilance = *Watch Out For Those Who Cause Division* = There Are ***Those*** In Church = ***Threat*** To Unity
   1. People ***Who*** Create ***Obstacles*** = Hindrances ***To Church Life*** 🡪 Spiritual ***Growth*** 🡪 Active ***Ministry***
5. ***Number*** Of Controversies ***Thru*** Years = ***Syphon Off*** Attention & Energy = ***Suck*** All ***Air*** Out ***of Room***
   1. Time Spent ***Debating*** 🡪 Putting Out ***Fires*** 🡪 Extra ***Meetings*** = Time ***Wasted*** = Emotions ***Spent***
6. **(17)** ***Necessary*** Bec/ “*contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught”*=Sound ***Biblical*** Doctrine & Ethics
   1. Church = You & I = Must Be Vigilant = These Things = Not Take Root In Life of Our Church = Any Church
   2. Can Happen Large Scale = Methodist Church = Splintering = Over Moral & Theological = Not Watch Out
7. ***Contrary*** = ***Uses*** Word ***Para*** = Alongside ***Doctrine*** = Add ***Things***—Emphasize ***Things*** Less Important
   1. Might Be Specifically Thinking of Those Who Divide Church Over Minor Matters
   2. Make Big Deal About Things Bible Not Make Big Deal About = Stress Wrong Things = Become Lopsided
   3. ***Driven*** By Own ***Ideas***—***Ego*** = Not ***Interests*** of Christ & Church = ***Surprising*** = Willing ***To Wreak*** Havoc
8. Church ***Must*** Remain ***Vigilant*** = If ***We Are*** Going To *maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*
   1. Vigilance = Grass Roots Movement = Involves All Of Us = I’m Often Last One To Know What’s Going On
   2. As Jesus Teaches Us Church Discipline In Matt 18 = Congregation Itself = First Line Of Defense
   3. Matt. 18:15-16—"*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along*
9. **(17)** Separation = ***Avoid*** Such People = This Hard Teaching = Necessary For Peace & Purity = After Trying
   1. Tit. 3:10-11—"*As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is* ***warped and sinful; he is self-condemned***”
   2. Matt. 18:17—"*If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector*.” = Treat As Outsider = Not Listen To Them
   3. Strong Language For Those Creating Division = So Many Passages = Need To Feel Seriousness
   4. Leadership Not Allow Someone To Remain = Openly Living—Teaching Things Contrary to Scripture
   5. **(18)** “*By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive*.” = Error & Rebellion ***Spread***
   6. Separation Necessary To Protect Flock From Sin & Error = Comes W/ Invitation To Repent & Return
10. Also Note = ***Be Careful*** Who ***Watch*** On TV **OR** Internet = Some Good = Many Are Smooth & Dangerous
    1. Kenneth Hagin—“*You are as much the incarnation of God as Jesus Christ was*.” = Blasphemy
    2. Robert Tilton—“*being poor is a sin when God promises prosperity*.” 🡪 Joel Osteen—"*God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money, to fulfill the destiny He has laid out for us*."
    3. Frederick Price—“*God has to be given permission to work in this earth realm on behalf of man…Yes! You are in control*!= Innocent ***In Regard*** To Evil = ***Means*** To Avoid ***Listening*** To It = Not ***Harmless***
11. **(18)** Use Discernment = Wise To Good—Innocent To Evil = Know Our Bibles = Ethics & Character
    1. ***Some Conflict*** = Legitimate & Necessary = Must Be Able To Ask Questions = To Work Thru Issues
    2. Not ***Unquestioning*** Obedience = ***But*** Church & Leadership = Must Be Vigilant = To Potential Threats

**Second, Serve Jesus (18-19)**

1. **(18) *Sobering*** To Realize = ***There Are*** People ***In Church*** = Not ***Serving*** Jesus = ***But Own*** Appetites—Desires
   1. Cranfield—“*In the sense of serving oneself, of being the willing slave of one’s egotism*” = All ***Susceptible***
   2. We Love Own Ideas = Love To Think We Are Right = Love To Do What We Want—To Get Own Way
   3. But The Xpian = Surrendered His Will ***To Will*** of God = ***To*** Following & Serving ***Lord Jesus Christ***
2. So Paul Draws Clear Contrast = Betw/ People Need To Watch Out For & Roman Christians Writing To
3. **(19)** ***Your*** Obedience ***Well*** Known = ***You Are*** Serving ***Jesus*** = Rejoice ***Over*** You = ***Obedience*** = Joy & Blessing
   1. Comes Out ***So Clearly*** In His Greetings = No ***Wonder*** He Rejoices ***As Leader*** = Over ***Their*** Love & Service
   2. Calls ***Them*** Beloved = ***Says*** Worked Hard ***For Church*** = Worked & Served ***Alongside*** of Him =***Even*** Prison
   3. ***Risked*** Necks ***For*** Paul & Gospel = ***For*** Jesus & His Church = ***He*** Sees & Rejoices ***In Their*** Service ***To Xp***
4. So When He Is Greeting Them 🡪 Rejoicing In Their Service = **Brings** To Mind ***Those*** = Not ***Serve*** Xp = ***Threat***
   1. Sobering Thing = Watch Out W/In The Church = For Those Whose Service Selfish = Create Obstacles
5. **(19)** So He Says = “*I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil*” =
   1. Jesus & Church = Not ***Served*** Well ***By Slavish*** Obedience = ***But*** By Wise—Discerning ***Christians***
   2. Wise To Good = Means See It—Love It—Live It 🡪 Innocent As To Evil = See It—Hate It—Avoid It
   3. Experts In Knowing & Doing What Is Right According to God’s Word 🡪 Amateurs In Doing Evil
   4. Acts 17:11—"*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*” = Resist Devil W/ Truth

**Finally, Hope In the God of Peace (20-23)**

1. ***After*** Sober ***Calling*** To Vigilance & Obedience = ***Sounds*** Note ***of Triumph*** = Reminds Us = ***God*** Wins!
   1. May Be ***False*** Teachers & Unbelievers = ***Who*** Trouble ***Peace*** of Church = ***But*** Not ***Need*** To Live ***In Fear***
2. **(20)** “*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet*.” = God ***Brings*** Peace ***Thru*** Victory
3. Right In Middle of Greetings = Paul Feels Compelled To Offer Warning = Remind Us = Battle Is Spiritual
   1. 1 Pet. 5:8-9—"*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith*”= Enemy Devours By Attacking Biblical Faith
4. But ***God*** of Peace = ***Soon*** Crush ***Satan*** Under ***Your Feet*** = Our Sovereign Lord ***Reigns*** = Victory ***Certain***
   1. This ***Victory*** Spoken ***First*** In Gen = ***Seed*** of Woman 🡪 ***Namely*** Xp = ***Crush*** Serpent’s ***Head***= Win ***Victory***
   2. ***This Victory*** Ultimately ***Won*** By Jesus ***= In*** Life***—***Death***—***Resurrection= Now Builds His Church Against
5. Context For This Crushing ***Satan*** Underfoot ***Relates To*** = Dangers ***Threaten*** Church = Unity = Existence
   1. Victory Found In Biblical Discernment = Knowing Good & Innocent of Evil = According To Word of God
   2. Satan = Liar & Deceiver Crushed Underfoot = When We Are Wise To Good Thru Word of God
   3. Rev. 12:11—“*They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony*”
6. Is There ***A More*** Appropriate ***Word*** To Be ***Spoken*** To Church ***In Any*** Age = ***In Every*** Age = ***Our God Reigns***
   1. Reminder Behind ***Evil*** In World—In Church = ***Personal*** Evil ***Call*** Satan—Devil =***His Fate*** = Written & Sure
7. We Have ***Victory*** In Jesus = ***We Are*** More Than ***Conquerors*** = By Spirit & Word ***of God*** = Stand ***Firm*** In Faith
   1. Jesus Building His Church @ Gates of Hell = Church Share In His Triumphs = Treading Down Evil
8. But This My Friends =***Foretaste*** Of Great & Terrible ***Day*** of Lord =***When*** Xp ***Will*** Return ***In Fullness*** of Power
9. **(20)** But Until That Day = Says = May Grace of Our Lord Jesus Be With You = We Are ***Preserved*** By His Grace
   1. Grounds Our Hope In Presence & Power ***Of Jesus*** = Grace ***of our Lord Jesus Christ*** be with you
   2. In The End = ***Our*** Vigilance & Service = Not ***Enough*** To Protect ***Church*** = Crush ***The Enemy*** = Only Jesus
   3. 2 Cor. 10:4-5—“*The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God*”
   4. It Is = Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ = God Dwelling Midst of His People = Christ In Us = Hope of Glory
10. So We Have Victory In Jesus = More Than Conquerors =By Spirit & Word of God =So We Stand Firm In Faith