

## ***Serving our Master***

Romans 16:17-20

April 2, 2017

### **Sermon Discussion Questions**

1. This week Pastor Josh taught us from Paul's closing words in Romans 16. In these verses Paul extends a warning and encouragement for the believers. He urges them to "watch out for," or as Pastor Josh explained it – scrutinize, those in their midst. Take a moment and ask yourself, when was the last time you prayerfully evaluated the relationships in your life? Ask for a couple of people to share their thoughts on doing this.
2. Pastor Josh highlighted that the two things to look are those who cause divisions and those who create obstacles. Sadly, many of us may have experienced this in our lives. Have you ever experienced someone acting divisively or creating obstacles? Here at Calvary, at another church? If so, share how those situations started and maybe played out. **(NOTE: This is meant to share how these things can happen so as to educate us. This is not meant to be a time of gossip or disparaging others. Leaders, take note on whether your group is mature enough to engage this question well, or if it's better to skip over it.)**
3. Paul's concern is that divisive people are hurting and even corrupting the gospel. They do this through flattery, smooth talk and deception. Why do they do this? Pastor Josh explained that it is a motivation problem. Namely, they don't serve God but themselves and sin. He then taught us about the significance and weight of the word "doulos." What did he say about it and how does it relate to how we understand serving?
4. We water down who God is by not treating the word "doulos" with the weight it deserves. The distinction between what we understand as servant and slave is a significant one. As a group, do you think this is a hard distinction to make? Would you call yourself a slave or a servant to God? What would your life and actions say?
5. In verse 18, Paul says that people who stop serving the Lord do so by starting to serve their own appetites. It is a subtle shift away from the Lord contemplating more from our desires and how we see things. We can see this happen all the way back at the fall in Genesis 3:6. The way to fight this is by knowing as little as possible of sin. How would being "innocent of what is evil" look for us today? What are some practical, day-to-day examples?
6. We cannot serve two masters, which is clear. Following our own desires and sin will set us at odds and opposition to following Christ. If that is where we find ourselves, what are we to do? We are called to turn back to our master, to God. Re-read Romans 6:17-18 and share some encouragement of how this has played out in your own walk with God.
7. We have a hope that the Lord will soon crush Satan under our feet. We also know there is joy in serving our master faithfully. As you close tonight, pray for each other and for each other's brothers and sisters in the faith. Pray that those who have walked away may return to their true master, pray for those who have still not surrendered their lives to God to do so. Celebrate the joy of serving the Lord and the hope that we have in His promises.