

The background of the slide is a photograph of the interior of the Colosseum in Rome, taken at night. The structure is illuminated from within, highlighting the arches and the tiered seating areas. The top of the image shows the upper levels of the arena, while the bottom shows the lower levels with prominent arches.

The Epistle to the

# Romans

Christian Maturity  
Chapter 14



# Practical Instruction

- Romans 12 Responsibilities from gifts
- Romans 13 Civil Responsibilities
- Romans 14 Christian Maturity
- Romans 15 Unity within the Body
- Romans 16 Personal Greetings

# Practical Instruction

- Romans 12 Responsibilities from gifts
- Romans 13 Civil Responsibilities
- Romans 14 Christian Maturity
- Romans 15 Unity within the Body
- Romans 16 Personal Greetings

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

**Romans 14:1-2**

- “Receive ye” = present tense, middle imperative, –“keep on taking to yourselves but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. . . .”

**15:7**

- *Notice who is “weak”:  
the one burdened with (external) rules!*

Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

**Romans 14:3**

**‘For God has received him’!**

**Note that the ‘standards’ we set and the rules we think others should live by do not hold weight before the throne of God!**

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

**Romans 14:4**

- “Servant”: *oiketes*, one who lives in the same house as another
  - Spoken of all who are under the authority of one and the same Master
- Self-righteous pride is a stumbling block to many!

One man esteemeth one day above another:  
another esteemeth every day alike. Let every  
man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

**Romans 14:5**

- Sabbath days?
- Holy Days?
  - Christmas / Easter / Passover
- Cf. **Rom 14:14, 22**

# What about the “Sabbath Day?”

- *“Sabbath is an Israeli thing.” Really?*
- *“Remember the Sabbath Day...holy.”*  
Exo 20:8
- Sabbath shows up before the law was given  
Exo 16:23-30
- The Sabbath Day was ordained in Eden  
Gen 2:3

# What about the “Sabbath Day?”

- We have lost sight of what the Sabbath was all about:
  - God wanted a day that was for their (our) benefit
  - It was the seventh day of the week, not the first.

# Sabbath in the New Testament

- Jesus' custom was to attend the synagogue on the Sabbath **Lk 4:16; Mk 1:21; 3:1; Lk 13:10**
- Jesus taught the authority and validity of the OT Law **Mt 5:17-20; 15:1-6; 19:16-19; 22:35-40; Lk 16:17**
- His emphasis was not on the external observance of the law, but on the spontaneous performance of the will of God which underlay the law **Mt 5:21-48; 19:3-9**

# Six Conflicts

1. He defended His disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath by alluding to the time when David and his men ate the bread of the Presence     Mt 12:1-4; Mk 2:23-26; Lk 6:1-4
2. He also reminded His critics that the priests in the Temple profaned the Sabbath and were held guiltless     Mt 12:5
3. He referred to circumcising a male on the Sabbath day  
Lev 12:3; Jn 7:22, 23

# Six Conflicts (con't)

4. Jesus expressed anger over those at Capernaum who showed more concern for the punctilious observance of the Sabbath than for a human being who was deprived of the use of a hand **Mk 3:1-5; Mt 12:8-14**
5. Likewise, Jesus rebuked the ruler of the synagogue, who became indignant when He healed a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for 18 years **Lk 13:10-17**
6. Jesus asserted His lordship over the Sabbath **Mt 12:8; Mk 2:28; Lk 6:5**

- The Sabbath was made for man;  
not man for the Sabbath

Mark 2:27

- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Matt 12:8;

# What about the “Sabbath Day?”

- What about the “Christian?” Keep the 10 Commandments?
  - Paul makes it clear we are not bound by the Law Rom 7
- Jesus primarily preached on the Sabbath
  - Seven times He heals on the Sabbath
    - To make the point the Sabbath was made for man...

# Seven Healings on the Sabbath

- 1) Demoniac, in Capernaum Mk 1:21-27
- 2) Peter's mother-in-law, in Capernaum Mk 1:29-31
- 3) Impotent Man, in Jerusalem Jn 5:1-9
- 4) Man with withered hand Mk 3:1-6; Mt 12:8-14
- 5) Woman bowed together Lk 13:10-17
- 6) Man with Dropsy Lk 14:1-6
- 7) Man born blind Jn 9:1-14

Not all healings were on the Sabbath: healing on  
Sunday, after the Sabbath: Mk 1:32

# What about the “Sabbath Day?”

- It was not God’s intent to prevent us from doing good on the Sabbath Day.
  - He relegated the Sabbath into “Ceremonial Law”
  - Jesus used the example of David and his men invading the temple and eating the show bread while fleeing for their lives.

# What about the “Sabbath Day?”

- “We keep the Sabbath on Sunday”
  - Where did that come from in the Scriptures?
    - Sunday is the first day of the week not seventh.
- All kinds of views; not simple to sort out!
- None of these things are worthy of dividing the fellowship over;  
Christians are not under the Law!

# Paul and the Sabbath

- The law was a yoke of bondage from which the Christian had been set free  
Gal 3:2, 3; 5:1; et al
- Paul made no distinction between moral and ceremonial law: It was all part of that old covenant, which was done away in Christ  
2 Cor 3:14
  - It was “nailed to the cross” Col 2:14

# Paul and the Sabbath

- The Sabbath and festivals, are declared to be “only a shadow of what is to come”  
Col 2:16, 17
- To “observe days, and months, and seasons, and years” is to be slaves to “the weak and beggarly elemental spirits”  
Gal 4:9, 10; Col 2:20
- The observance of days is a characteristic of “the man who is weak in faith”  
Rom 14:1-6

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

**Romans 14:6**

If it was important for us to worship on Saturday, Paul would have said so!

**Col 2:16-17**

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

- Indeed the Sabbath Day itself is also a prophetic idiom as is amplified in

**Hebrews 4**

–It is intended to teach lessons about entering into God's rest

# Prophetic Implications

- Sabbath honored in Ezekiel's Temple:
  - Gate to inner court closed 6 days, opened on the Sabbath and the day of the new moon: **Ez 46:1 ff.**
  - Memorial sacrifices also.
- Sabbaths will continue as a basis for worship in the Millennium **Isa 66:22, 23**
- Sabbath is an intrinsic part of the creation, specifically for man **Gen 2:2, 3**

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

**Romans 14:7-8**

- All things belong to the Lord and are sanctioned by Him

**1 Cor. 10:25-27; 1 Tim. 4:3-5**

# Our Accountability

- A believer's individual accountability to the Lord in every area and experience of life is paramount.
  - Every Christian in both life and death is seen by the Lord, and is accountable to Him, not to other Christians.
  - So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

**Romans 14:9**

- In these verses Paul stated the theological basis for his exhortation for Christians to desist from and to resist judging one another
  - One of the reasons for the Lord Jesus' redemptive death and resurrection is to be the Lord of both the dead and the living

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why  
dost thou set at nought thy brother? for **we**  
shall all stand before  
the judgment seat of Christ.

**Romans 14:10**

Note the “we” that Paul uses here

**Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10**

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For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

- “judgment seat” = *bema* seat

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# *Bema seat*

- Pilate judging Christ Matt 27:19
- Herod (smitten by worms) Acts 12:21
- Gallio sentencing Paul Acts 18:16,17
- Festus: trial, sentencing Act 25:6,10,17
- Judgment Seat of Christ Rom 14:10

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

**1 Corinthians 3:8-10**

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-13**

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

**1 Corinthians 3:14-15**

- The issue here is rewards, not salvation
  - Gold, silver, precious stones
    - right foundation -reward
  - Wood, hay, stubble
    - burned up -suffers loss (but still saved!)

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I,  
not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into  
subjection: lest that by any means,  
when I have preached to others,  
I myself should be a castaway.

**1 Corinthians 9:26,27**

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But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into  
subjection: lest that by any means,  
when I have preached to others,

I myself should be a castaway.

**1 Corinthians 9:26,27**

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

**1 John 2:28**

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

**1 John 2:28**

# Inheritance

- Jesus achieved His inheritance by perseverance in suffering

Heb 2:10,11; Phil 2:9-11

- His companions (“Partakers”:Greek *metochoi*) will inherit the same way

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

**Rom 8:17**

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# Perseverance of the Saints

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**Hebrews 6:11,12**

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**Hebrews 6:11,12**

For we are made **partakers** of Christ,  
if we hold the beginning of our confidence  
steadfast unto the end;

**Hebrews 3:14**

*metochoi*

those who share in, companions, comrades;  
partners (in a work, office, or dignity)

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# Inheritance

- Inheritance: *kleronomeo* = A reward for a life of faithfulness.

Verb: 4X in Hebrews: 1:4; 1:14; 6:12; 12:17

- Inheritance rights of the firstborn *can be lost*
- Inheritance can be *forfeited* because of disobedience (as in the case of Esau)

Heb 12:17

and it is only obtained by persevering—“faith and patience”

Heb 6:12

# Inheritance

- There are at least two kinds of inheritance in OT
  - Portions of your inheritance you cannot lose.
    - You will always be a son, therefore an heir
      - But not necessarily a “joint heir” - (firstborn status)
  - Being an heir is unconditional
    - Being a “joint heir” is conditioned upon perseverance

# Inheritance

- Are we all going to be joint heirs with Christ?
  - If we “suffer with Him” **Rom 8:17**
- If saved you are guaranteed *entry* into heaven
  - Justification is a free gift of God, nothing we did to earn it
  - Entry is not ‘ownership’
  - Difference between entry into heaven and your role once you get there

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

**Romans 14:11**

- Paul affirmed the certainty of this event by quoting **Isaiah 45:23**
    - Pertaining to everyone standing before Christ and confessing Him as Lord
- cf. **Phil. 2:10-11**

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**Romans 14:11-12**

- Each believer's life of service will be under review
  - Some loss will be experienced
  - But he will be rewarded for what he endures

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

**Romans 14:13**

- “Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another” *krinomen*:
  - Subjunctive, present tense, active, 1st person plural

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

**Romans 14:13**

- A Christian should judge himself and his actions, so that he does not put:
  - *proskomma*, lit., “something a person trips over”)
  - *scandalon*, lit., “trap, snare,” and hence “anything that leads another to sin.”)

I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus,  
that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to  
him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean,  
to him it is unclean.

**Romans 14:14**

No food (lit., “nothing”) is unclean  
(*koinon*, “common”) in itself;

cf. Acts 10:15; Rom. 14:20; 1 Cor. 8:8

But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat,  
now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not  
him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

**Romans 14:15**

In Christian love, we should be willing to  
forgo our liberty in Christ to avoid being a  
spiritual hindrance to a spiritual brother.

# Liberty vs Love

- If a Christian persists in exercising his liberty so that his brother is distressed (*lypeitai*, “grieved, hurt”), Paul concluded that exercising his liberty is no longer acting (lit., “walking”) in love.

Let not then your good be evil spoken of:  
For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;  
but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the  
Holy Ghost.

For he that in these things serveth Christ is  
acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Let us therefore follow after the things which  
make for peace, and things wherewith one  
may edify another

**Romans 14:16-19**

For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. **Romans 14:20**

- To Paul, food, and one's personal convictions about it, were not so important as the spiritual health of a fellow Christian and the work of God.
  - Therefore it is wrong to insist on one's personal freedom in Christ concerning food ("all food is clean; no food is unclean")

**Rom. 14:14**

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine,  
nor any thing whereby thy brother  
stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

**Romans 14:21**

- The one living under the self-imposed rules is the weaker in faith.

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine,  
nor any thing whereby thy brother  
stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

**Romans 14:21**

- The one living under the self-imposed rules is the weaker in faith.

All things are lawful for me, but all things are  
not expedient: all things are lawful for me,  
but all things edify not.

**1 Corinthians 10:23**

Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God.  
Happy is he that condemneth not himself in  
that thing which he alloweth. **Romans 14:22**

- So, whatever you believe about these things (lit., “The faith that you have,” or “Do you have faith?”) keep *between yourself and God*.
- A Christian must not insist on influencing a believer, who has tighter scruples, to change their ways.
  - As they grow in Christ, they may well come to know the liberty you do, but they are in God’s hands!

# Liberty vs Love

- *"Jesus did not say to make converts to your way of thinking, but He said to look after His sheep, to see that they get nourished in the knowledge of Him."*

- Oswald Chambers

# Liberty vs Love

- *"A spiritually minded man will never come to you with the demand — "Believe this and that"; but with the demand that you square your life with the standards of Jesus.*
- *We are called to present liberty of conscience, not liberty of view. If we are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into that same liberty — the liberty of realizing the dominance of Jesus Christ.*

- Oswald Chambers

# Liberty vs Love

- *"Always keep your life measured by the standards of Jesus. Bow your neck to His yoke alone, and to no other yoke whatever; and be careful to see that you never bind a yoke on others that is not placed by Jesus Christ. It takes God a long time to get us out of the way of thinking that unless everyone sees as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God's view. There is only one liberty, the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.*

# Liberty vs Love

- *"Don't get impatient, remember how God dealt with you — with patience and with gentleness; but never water down the truth of God. Let it have its way and never apologize for it. Jesus said, "Go...and make disciples" not — make converts to your opinions.*

- Oswald Chambers

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat,  
because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever  
is not of faith is sin.

**Romans 14:23**

- But, a Christian who has doubts is condemned (perf. pass. verb, “stands in the place of the condemned”) if he eats.
  - What a terrible thing for a believer in Christ to be under a burden that has already been paid for at Calvary!

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat,  
because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever  
is not of faith is sin.

**Romans 14:23**

- The principle is, “**When in doubt, don’t.**”
  - The “strong” Christian (**15:1**) is wrong if he causes a weak brother to sin (by doing something while doubting, **14:20**),
  - And a weak brother (**vv. 1-2**) who goes against what he doubts also sins (**v. 23**).

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

**James 4:17**

- Christ paid the highest price that we might be free!
- In Christ there is liberty and life!

# Next Session

- Read **Romans 15**
  - The Unity in the Body
  - The Unity in His Word

# Next Session

- Read **Romans 14**
  - Should Christians keep the Sabbath?
  - Why was Paul so paranoid about the possibility of “being a castaway”?
  - Should we be concerned about the “Judgment Seat of Christ”?



# Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*