

ROMANS 14

1. Should we obey the people who govern our villages and our country?

-Yes.

2. What does Romans 13:1 say about the governing leaders?

-That all leaders have been established by God.

3. Does this mean that God has established government leaders who are bad leaders?

-It means that God has allowed them to be leaders.

4. Does this mean that all governmental leaders do and say what God wants them to?

-No.

-Sometimes leaders are evil and command people to do what is against God's Word.

5. If our leaders command us to disobey God's Word, should we obey them?

-No.

6. What can we conclude regarding governments and obeying them?

-If governmental leaders do not command us to disobey God, then we should obey them.

-But if governmental leaders command us to disobey God, then we must obey God and not them.

7. Why do we not want to disobey God?

-Adam and Eve disobeyed God only once, and death came to all people.

8. What is the continuing debt which we owe?

-To love one another.

9. How is love the fulfillment of the Law?

-Because love never wrongs another person, and fully satisfies all that the law requires.

10. What is spiritual sleep?

-Not understanding and allowing God to do all that He wants to do with us.

11. What does Romans 13:12 mean when it speaks of "night" and "day"?

-“Night” means man's time of unbelief, rebellion, and sin.

-“Day” means Christ's return to earth which will bring spiritual light to all people.

12. What does it mean that “the night is nearly over; the day is almost here”?

-That Christ's return to earth is very close.

13. What does it mean that “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed”?

-God and Paul are talking about the time when the Lord Jesus will return to earth to take all Christians to heaven.

14. What are the deeds of darkness?

-Sin which can darken our lives.

15. What is the armor of light?

-It is the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

16. How then do we put on the armor of light?

-We must study and learn the Word of God.

17. Is there any difference between putting on the armor of light and clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ?

-No.

-We now begin the last lesson in the Book of Romans.

-We continue with the theme:

-“The Righteousness of God Working in Us.”

-After finishing this theme, we will have the conclusion.

-As Christians, we know that sin can hurt us.

-Sin can also hurt the Church of Christ.

-That which can also hurt us and the Church of Christ is differences between Christians.

-Many churches have been hurt because of differences between Christians.

-Here is the problem:

-In every church, every Christian is different.

-There are Christians who have a strong faith.

-There are Christians who have a weak faith.

-What happens when Christians with a strong faith and Christians with a weak faith are together in the same church?

-Beginning in Romans 14:1, this is what God and Paul teach us:

Let's read Romans 14:1-4

1-Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

2-One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.

3-The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

4-Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

-To whom are God and Paul talking when they say,

“Accept him whose faith is weak”?

-God and Paul are talking to Christians who have a strong faith.

-As Romans 14:2 says, “One man's faith allows him to eat everything.

-If we have a strong faith, this allows us to eat anything.

-We know this because Jesus declared all foods clean in Mark 7:19.

-Why should Christians who have a strong faith accept Christians who have a weak faith?

-Because Jesus died for all of us.

-Because Jesus has made us one.

-If Jesus has made us one, then all believers are equal before Christ.

-Romans 14:3 says: “the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.”

-Christians who have a weak faith and, therefore, cannot eat everything should also not condemn the Christian who does eat everything.

-What is the foundational problem here?

-Christians who have a strong faith may think that they are better than others because they eat everything.

-Christians with a weak faith may think that they are better than others because they do not eat everything.

-Does God want us to condemn other believers?

-No.

-Therefore, we are not to condemn others because of what they eat or do not eat.

-In Romans 14:4, what is another reason why we should not condemn other believers?

-Because God Himself is the Master of all believers, and because God Himself maintains all believers.

-Some Christians may think that they have to help God to maintain or control other Christians.

-God does not need our help to maintain or control other believers.

-God is quite capable of maintaining and controlling all believers by Himself.

Let's read Romans 14:5-9

5-One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

6-He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

7-For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.

8-If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

9-For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

-Just like some Christians may believe that we should not eat all foods, some Christians may believe that some days are more sacred than others.

-Why is this?

-Because the faith of all Christians is not the same.

-Christians who are strong in their faith should not impose on Christians who are weak in their faith.

-Likewise, Christians who are weak in their faith should not impose on Christians who are strong in their faith.

-How do God and Paul resolve this problem?

-In Romans 14:8, the solution is this: “If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”

-The solution is to live and die for God, and not for ourselves or other people.

-If we live for ourselves or other people, we will never be satisfied.

-However, if we live for God, then we can live in peace.

Let's read Romans 14:10-12

10-You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

11-It is written: “As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’”

12-So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

-Who is to be the judge of our lives?

-God alone.

-This is why we should not judge other Christians.

-God alone is our judge, and if God wants us to change something, He will make it clear to us.

-It is God's job to maintain our faith.

-What does Romans 14:12 mean when it says, "Each of us will give an account of himself to God."

-Does this mean that Christians will be condemned by God for their sins?

-No.

-As Christians, we know that Christ has died for our sins, and that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

-As we will study later, the work of each Christian will be brought before God to see if we have lived to please God or lived to please ourselves.

Let's read Romans 14:13-15

13-Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

14-As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean.

15-If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your

eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

-What does Romans 14:13 mean when it says not to put a stumbling block in the way of a brother or sister?

-It means that Christians should not do anything that may cause another Christian to sin against God.

-Here is an example:

-If a Christian who has a strong faith and is free to drink alcohol invites a Christian who has a weak faith and who used to be a drunk to have a beer together, then he is putting a stumbling block in his path.

-He is causing him to sin.

-In conclusion, let us now read some of God and Paul's last words in this letter to the Christians in Rome.

Let's read Romans 15:13

13-May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

-Why did Paul call God the "God of hope"?

-Because God alone can give us hope when we are without hope.

-Before we believed in Christ, we were helpless sinners on the road to eternal death with no hope.

-When we believe in Christ, our hearts are filled with joy and peace because we have the hope of eternal life with God.

-Who is it that teaches us the Word of God, strengthens our faith, and gives us joy, peace, and hope?

-The Holy Spirit who lives in us.

-God wants us to be completely satisfied in Him.

Let's read Romans 15:14-15

14-I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge, and competent to instruct one another.

15-I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me

-Although Paul had never visited the church in Rome, he heard about their faith through other Christians whom he had met on his journeys.

-Even though he had never met most of the Christians, Paul calls them brothers, and tells them that they are full of goodness, complete in knowledge, and able to teach

one another.

-The only other church that Paul praised so highly was the church in Thessalonica.

-Where does goodness, being complete in knowledge, and being able to teach come from?

-From the Holy Spirit who gives all of this readily to those who humble themselves before God, and ask Him.

-While Paul believed that he wrote boldly, he wrote in a spirit of love in order to remind the Roman Christians of the great truths of God.

-We all need to be reminded often of the great truths of our God.

Let's read Romans 15:16

16-to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

-Paul reminded the Christians at Rome of these truths because of the special work that God had given him as a teacher of the Gentiles.

-While the other apostles spent most of their time

teaching the Jews, Paul was called by the Lord Jesus to teach the Word of God to the Gentiles.

-Although there were Jews in the church at Rome, many of the believers in Rome were Gentiles.

-Therefore, Paul had a special desire and responsibility to teach Gentiles.

-How are we an offering acceptable to God?

-Because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Let's read Romans 15:17-19

17-Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

18-I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-

19-by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

-In Acts, we read of the three missionary journeys of Paul and the wonderful things which God did through him.

-Through this work, many thousands of Gentiles believed in Jesus as their Savior and were meeting as

churches of Jesus.

-Starting in Jerusalem, Paul taught the Word of God all the way to Illyricum which is now modern day Albania.

-Notice that Paul did not take any responsibility for all of the work.

-Rather, Paul gave the glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for what had been accomplished.

-For all that God does through us, we should also give the glory to God.

-For it is God alone through us who is able to save people from sin, death, and Satan.

Let's read Romans 15:20-21

20-It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

21-Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

-Because of Christ in Him, Paul taught the Word of God where it had never been taught before.

-While God has not called all Christians to be

evangelists, God has called all Christians to be a testimony to all who are lost without Christ.

Let's read Romans 15:22-24

22-This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

23-But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you,

24-I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

-Why hadn't Paul visited Rome at an earlier time?

-Because there were places that were closer where people had never heard the Word of God.

-What was Paul's great goal in life?

-To teach the Word of God to people who had never heard about Jesus.

-Why did Paul want to teach the Word of God to people who had never heard?

-Because He wanted to obey Jesus' last command.

-What was Jesus' last command?

-To go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

-What should be the goal of all Christians?

-To obey Jesus' last command and teach the Word of God to those who have never heard.

Let's read Romans 15:30-33

30-I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

31-Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there,

32-so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed.

33-The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

-Paul asked the Christians in Rome to pray that God would save him from the unbelieving Jews in Judea.

-God answered these prayers, for even though Paul was arrested and imprisoned, the Jews were not able to kill him because God protected Paul.

-God allowed Paul to be taken to Rome as a prisoner in

chains.

-God may not always answer our prayers as we want Him to, but He always hears us and does what is best for us.

-So that our lives will become more and more like Jesus.

-At the end of the letter to the Romans, Chapter 16, Paul sends greetings to many different believers whom he had met and were now living in Rome.

-Paul praised God for them and for the different ways that they served the Lord.

-We, too, should love and encourage one another in the work of the Lord.

Let's read Romans 16:16

16-Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

-Christians in different parts of the world have different ways of greeting one another.

-In some countries, Christians kiss one another.

-In America, Christians shake hands.

-We do not need to follow the customs of Paul's time or

customs of other countries.

-What is important is that we show that we love and accept each other as brothers and sisters in the family of God whenever we meet.

Let's read Romans 16:17-18

17-I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

18-For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

-From whom did Paul warn the Christians in Rome to keep away?

-Anyone who taught differently from the teaching of the Word of God which they had already received.

-Satan also has servants who are sincere, yet they are deceived and do not believe in Jesus as their Savior.

-Just like Satan knows the Word of God, yet changes it, false teachers change the Word of God, and although their teaching may sound good, it is from Satan.

-These false teachers are living only for themselves and

not for Jesus.

Let's read Romans 16:19

19-Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

-The church at Rome had been obedient to God's Word, but God and Paul did not want them to be deceived by false teachers.

-God and Paul want all Christians to be wise, to understand what is right, and to keep ourselves from all that is wrong.

-Satan will try to cause divisions in the churches and may send teachers to lead Christians away from Christ.

-This is why we should pray that Christians will hold tightly to the truths of God.

Let's read Romans 16:20

20-The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

-Paul encouraged the believers to remain strong in their faith in the truth because the Lord Jesus is coming, and when He does, He will completely destroy Satan.

-All the believers will share the victory of the Lord Jesus over Satan.

Let's read Romans 16:25-26

25-Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.

26-But now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him.

-What did Paul mean when he said that something was hidden, but has now been revealed through the prophets?

-That God has also chosen the Gentiles to have eternal life.

Let's read Romans 16:27

27-To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

-Paul closed his letter by giving praise to God who alone has all wisdom.

-Paul prayed that God would be praised forever as all of the wonderful things that He has done are made known through the Lord Jesus Christ.