

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Mar 2020.....	Romans 01a.....	Compelled
2) 08 Mar.....	Romans 01b.....	Guilty
3) 15 Mar.....	Romans 02.....	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar.....	Romans 03-04.....	Justified
5) 29 Mar.....	Romans 05.....	At Peace
6) 05 April.....	Romans 06-07.....	Free
7) 12 April.....	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER].....	Raised
8) 19 April.....	Romans 08-09.....	Secured
9) 26 April.....	Romans 10.....	Saved
10) 03 May.....	Romans 11.....	Mercy
11) 10 May.....	Romans 12.....	Sacrifices
12) 17 May.....	Romans 13.....	Citizens
13) 24 May.....	Romans 14.....	Accepting
14) 31 May.....	Romans 15-16.....	Reach

INTRODUCTION

- **TEST TIME:** Which Christians are more spiritually mature?

Those who drink	<input type="checkbox"/> Pepsi or	<input type="checkbox"/> Coke?
Those who vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Democrat or	<input type="checkbox"/> Republican?
Those who are	<input type="checkbox"/> meat-eaters or	<input type="checkbox"/> vegetarian?
Those who use	<input type="checkbox"/> King James or	<input type="checkbox"/> NIV?
Those who	<input type="checkbox"/> pray daily or	<input type="checkbox"/> weekly?
Those who are	<input type="checkbox"/> Baptists or	<input type="checkbox"/> Methodists?
Those who speak	<input type="checkbox"/> in tongues or	<input type="checkbox"/> sing in choir?
Those who read	<input type="checkbox"/> the Bible daily or	<input type="checkbox"/> annually?
Those who celebrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Halloween or	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas?
Those who worship on	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday or	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday?
Those who are	<input type="checkbox"/> immersed or	<input type="checkbox"/> sprinkled?
Those who wear	<input type="checkbox"/> ties or	<input type="checkbox"/> dresses?
Those who are	<input type="checkbox"/> Arminianists or	<input type="checkbox"/> Calvinists?
Those who are	<input type="checkbox"/> Creationists or	<input type="checkbox"/> Evolutionists?
Those who are fans of	<input type="checkbox"/> UK or	<input type="checkbox"/> UL?
- It should be obvious those who pray are more spiritual than those who don't; those who read the Bible are more spiritual than those who don't; and UK fans are more spiritual than UL fans (right?)
- We need to discern between primary and secondary issues – but some of us take secondary issues quite passionately
- Paul spends a good bit of time addressing why believers should avoid turning non-essential secondary issues into primary issues

Passage	Comments
Romans 14:1-4	<p>Who is More Spiritual – Vegetarians or Meat-Eaters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparently, the Jewish believers and the former idolatrous Gentiles ribbed each other over their diets, and it caused some spiritual conflict and competition • Paul's solution → Those who think they are more spiritual should simply accept others with all of their faults intact – Watch out for log in your eye Mat 7:3 • The spiritually mature ones should not be the ones who wreck havoc, pass judgment, or tease the weaker ones • v4. The Lord is able to make the (weak one) stand just to spite the one who judges Prov 24:17-18
14:5-6	<p>How do we Become Fully Convinced in Our Minds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some use this passage to help them rationalize sin • Rather, Paul's intent is to avoid turning secondary issues into primary issues – which means we need to discern which issues have priority • Eating meat or worshipping on Saturday is not sinful, therefore, we have liberty with such trivial issues
14:7-9	<p>Why Can't Christians Be Islands?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God never meant for Christians to be hermits or monks • We must socialize to grow & win others for Christ

Passage	Comments
14:10-15	<p>What's the Diff. Between Judging & Admonishing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not to judge one another, but we are to admonish one another (15:14) – What's the Diff? • In brief, judging in this context involves someone forcing their superiority over another ("You're wrong, I'm right"), while admonishing (which we will discuss next week) involves properly correcting a problem and restoring fellowship • v13. God help us if we cause others to stumble because of our liberties in Christ. Example: Some may have no problems moderately drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking, or playing the lottery – which could entice weaker ones to fall into harmful addictions
14:16-20	<p>How is a Good Thing Made Bad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a higher priority than meeting our own needs – We are to help others and do no harm to the weak • Would we sacrifice food, drink, or a hobby for the sake of someone else? • So watch out turning a good liberty we might have into something which causes others to stumble
14:21-23	<p>Does Your Faith Match Your Actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul's approach would be to avoid meat rather than to cause someone to stumble 1Corinthians 8:13 • Sometimes our liberty in Christ should be restrained, and not paraded about or forced onto others • v23. "But he who doubts is damned/condemned (context is self-condemnation)... whatever is not from faith (or sound convictions) is sin (lit., miss the mark)" • In other words, if the way we live is not consistent with what we believe, then we have issues to fix
Food for Thought	<p>Principle of Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul did not capitulate on every issue. He had Timothy circumcised so Jews would not be offended but won to Christ, but Titus was not circumcised just to please some Jews Acts 16:3; Gal 2:3

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- **"In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity"** - Rupertus Meldenius, German Lutheran theologian (~1627)

NEXT WEEK: Romans 15-16. Striving in prayer yields great results, and when the strong support the weak within the church God will work with us to accomplish what needs to be done.

