

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

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

**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.

