

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17..... Good News To Tell
- 2) 11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26..... Good News to Hear
- 3) 18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25..... Good News to Believe
- 4) 25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21..... It's All About Grace
- 5) 02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23..... It's All About New Life
- 6) 09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25..... It's All About Victory
- 7) 16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39..... It's All About Certainty
- 8) 23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36..... It's All About God's Plan
- 9) 30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21..... Does Your Life Please God
- 10) 06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14..... Can You Be Counted On
- 11) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12..... **Do You Respect Others**
- 12) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23..... **Do You Strive for Peace with Others**
- 13) 20 Nov.....Romans 15:1—33. Part I. Does Your Life Speak Well of God?
- 14) 27 Nov.....Romans 16:1—27 Part II. Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

**INTRODUCTION**

- **TEST TIME:** Which Christians are more spiritually mature?
  - Those who drink       Pepsi or       Coke?
  - Those who vote       Democrat or       Republican?
  - Those who are       meat-eaters or       vegetarian?
  - Those who use       King James or       NIV?
  - Those who       pray daily or       weekly?
  - Those who are       Baptists or       Methodists?
  - Those who speak       in tongues or       sing in choir?
  - Those who read       the Bible daily or       annually?
  - Those who celebrate       Halloween or       Christmas?
  - Those who worship on       Saturday or       Sunday?
  - Those who are       immersed or       sprinkled?
  - Those who wear       ties or       dresses?
  - Those who are       Arminianists or       Calvinists?
  - Those who are fans of       UK or       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 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
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 ..... 1Corinthians 8:13</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)" - 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 ..... Acts 16:3; Gal 2:3</li> </ul>

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..... Mat 7:3</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 – and this to spite the one who judges ..... Prov 24:17-18</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>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

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

**NEXT WEEK:** Romans 15. 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

