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 Victory
6) 09 Oct .........Romans 7:1-25 ..........It's All About Certainty
7) 16 Oct .........Romans 8:1-39 ..........It's All About God's Plan
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) 20 Nov .........Romans 14:13-23 ..........Do You Strive for Peace with Others
13) 27 Nov .........Romans 15:1—33. Part I. Does Your Life Speak Well of God?
14) 04 Dec .........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 ☐ Arminians 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
Romans 14:1-4 Who is More Spiritual – Vegetarians or Meat-Eaters?
• 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 wreak havoc, pass judgment, or tease the weaker ones.
• v4. The Lord is able to make the (weak one) stand – and this to spite the one who judges ……Prov 24:17-18

14:5-6 How do we Become Fully Convinced in Our Minds?
• 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 Why Can’t Christians Be Islands?
• God never meant for Christians to be hermits or monks
• We must socialize to grow & win others for Christ

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.