

## Romans 14 – Summary Thoughts

### Table – Romans 14:1-23

- 1 *Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.*
- 2 *For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.*
- 3 *Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.*
- 4 *Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*
- 5 *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*
- 6 *He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.*
- 7 *For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*
- 8 *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*
- 9 *For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*
- 10 *But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*
- 11 *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*
- 12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
- 13 *Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.*
- 14 *I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*
- 15 *But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.*
- 16 *Let not then your good be evil spoken of:*
- 17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*
- 18 *For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.*
- 19 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
- 20 *For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.*
- 21 *It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.*
- 22 *Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.*
- 23 *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

## Notes on Table – Romans 14:1-23

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 533-561 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1505-1506 for detailed comment.

1. Romans 14:1-4. Paul focuses here on individual Christian freedom to **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...”** Galatians 5:1 balanced with **“brotherly kindness”** 2 Peter 1:7 as Paul states further in Galatians 5:13 **“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another”**.

Romans 14:1-3 uses the example of eating. The standing with God of the believer whom God has received **“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved”** Ephesians 1:5 is independent of diet as Paul explains further.

**“But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse”** 1 Corinthians 8:8 in that not according to *food* but according to *faith* **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”** Galatians 3:26.

That is why Romans 14:4 applies in the context because **“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”** Romans 8:33-34.

That said, Romans 14:13-23 apply with respect to **“brotherly kindness”** 2 Peter 1:7. *Noting the importance of charity*, Romans 14:13 and *perception*, Romans 14:14, the focus of the passage with respect to **“Him that is weak in the faith”** Romans 14:1 is Romans 14:21 **“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”** Saved folk are not to offend or distress one another or discourage another's faith with a poor testimony by accentuating individual liberty at the expense of **“brotherly kindness”** 2 Peter 1:7 as Paul makes clear in Romans 14:19 **“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”** and elsewhere, building one another up **“according to the scriptures”** 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 **“the scriptures of the prophets”** Romans 16:26 **“the holy scriptures”** 2 Timothy 3:15.

**“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified”** Acts 20:32.

**“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do”** 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

That is why Paul exhorts the Corinthians further, see 1 Corinthians 8:8 above, and of course today's believer **“But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak...Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend”** 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13.

In addition the believer has a responsibility **“That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without...”** 1 Thessalonians 4:12 in the light of the above as Paul exhorts Timothy to **“...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”** 1 Timothy 4:12.

This writer was asked not long ago by two young female students, who took some Chick tracts, from a local college about halal meat because Christians on campus were insisting that it should not be eaten, no doubt owing to the manner of its preparation, although this was not said. The guidelines would be 1 Corinthians 8:8 for individual liberty together with the Lord's admonition **“And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that**

**whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?**” Mark 7:18-19 but Romans 14:13-16, 20, 21, 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13, 1 Timothy 4:12 with respect to any saved *or unsaved* person rightly offended by the manner of halal meat preparation.

Liberty to consume halal meat or any kind of food must be eschewed if another Christian is *repelled* or *grieved* by it, Romans 14:13, 15 because he or she *perceives* it to be unclean, Romans 14:14 so that thereby **“your good be evil spoken of”** Romans 14:16 because the result is **“schism in the body”** 1 Corinthians 12:25 and in turn the distinct possibility of offence **“...toward them that are without...”** 1 Thessalonians 4:12 when instead **“the members should have the same care one for another”** 1 Corinthians 12:25. Application in principle can be made to **“whatsoever ye do”** 1 Corinthians 10:31. See citation below of 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.

Note also that even where individual liberty applies e.g. concerning halal meat, Paul is clear that twinges of doubt should not be ignored or overridden but obeyed **“for conscience sake”** Romans 13:5. **“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin”** Romans 14:23.

This writer did however draw the students’ attention to a matter that is arguably more relevant to young English folk than halal meat preparation and of which the young women were not aware and that is the eating of blood, still prohibited for today’s believer, as John Davis shows in *Time for Truth News!* Issue 66 May-June 2013 p 8, his emphases.

When Eve ate the forbidden fruit i.e. the GRAPE, it did something to her circulatory system & probably turned her water into BLOOD! (*Anyone still here?*) There is ONLY one TREE in THE BOOK that has a FORBIDDEN FRUIT on it – it’s found in Num 6, the VINE TREE! (Num 6v4) There is ONLY ONE tree that is forbidden in the Garden of Eden & that is found in Gen 2v17 **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** Did you know that there is only one thing that you are forbidden to eat BEFORE the Law, DURING the Law & AFTER the Law? It is BLOOD! (OUT goes ‘black pudding’ Christian!) See Gen 9v4 – BEFORE; Lev 17v12 – DURING; Acts 15v20 AFTER i.e. NT!

Binding on today’s believer with respect to blood as for the other prohibitions *matching* Romans 14:17-18 **“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men”** Acts 15:20 is the stricture as follows *as written scripture to saved Gentiles.* **“But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.”**

2. Romans 14:5-9. Paul here focuses on the observance of days because Christians if possible as is the case to the present day met on **“...the first day of the week...when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week”** Mark 16:2, 9. See Acts 20:7 **“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight”** and 1 Corinthians 16:2 **“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”**

However, Paul also states **“But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches...Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called”** 1 Corinthians 7:17, 20. Therefore, where *God* has called the individual to an occupation such as shift work, public transport, aboard ship or aircraft or in the military or police forces or other emergency services that individual will of necessity **“esteemeth every day alike”** whereas a saved individual with a different calling has liberty where he **“esteemeth one day above another”** Romans 14:5 i.e. **“...the first day of the week...when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week”** Mark 16:2, 9.

In either case it is *the calling of God* by which **“...every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”** Romans 14:5 such that as with the issue of eating, Romans 14:1-3, 6, 13-23 **“He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it”** Romans 14:6 because as Paul further exhorts *with a view to bearing effective testimony whether or not Sunday service attendance is feasible* **“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved”** 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.

Romans 14:7-9 then follow for *both* the Sunday service attender and Sunday service non-attender **“as the Lord hath called every one”** 1 Corinthians 7:17 as Paul exhorts further **“...that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”** 2 Corinthians 5:15.

The Lord Jesus Christ *should* **“be Lord both of the dead and living”** Romans 14:9 in accordance with Romans 14:7, 8, 9 because He said **“...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”** Luke 22:42 as should be the case for today’s believer and as Peter says of the Lord Jesus Christ and as applies in principle to today’s believer, especially the last statement of what follows with respect to Romans 14:7, 8, 9, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 32, 33 and remarks above. **“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously”** 1 Peter 2:21-23.

With Romans 14:13-23 having been addressed in summary form under point 1, this study concludes with summary remarks on Romans 14:10-12 and **“the judgment seat of Christ.”**

3. **Romans 14:10-12.** See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) *Romans 13 – Summary Thoughts* p 3 and the following extract. **“...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God”** Romans 14:10, 12 in answer to the following six questions that impinge on neighbourhood support, Romans 13:10, **“speaking the truth in love”** Ephesians 4:15, speaking **“all truth”** by **“the Spirit of truth”** John 16:13 i.e. **“all the counsel of God”** Acts 20:27 not cleverly massaged selections of it, **“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”** Acts 20:21 and labouring to **“...grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”** Ephesians 4:30. The six questions are:

**“How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength? How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is? To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?”** Job 26:2-4 i.e. **“The Spirit of the LORD”** 2 Samuel 23:2 or **“a lying spirit”** 1 Kings 22:22, 23, 2 Chronicles 18:21, 22.

The above extract covers the main issues with respect to Romans 14:10, 12 and emphasises that the tendency to **“judge thy brother...or...set at nought thy brother”** Romans 14:10 *pales* before the *certainty* of **“the judgment seat of Christ”** Romans 14:10 **“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God”** Romans 14:11 being of **“things...written aforetime”** Romans 15:4 as the Lord prophesied through Isaiah **“...I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear”** Isaiah 45:22-23. Today’s believer *should* therefore prepare for **“the judgment seat of Christ”** Romans 14:10 according to Job 26:2-4 because as the Lord also said through Isaiah.

**“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”** Isaiah 55:11.