

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



Monday

Study: Romans 14:1-3, Acts 10:9-17, I Timothy 4:1-5

Reading: Matthew 15:1-20

Memory: Matthew 5:27

Romans 14:1-3

What do you think Paul means when he describes a person as “weak in the faith” (vs 1 - ESV)?

****The word “weak” often carries a negative connotation in our society today. Paul was by no means putting this type of person down, but describing those who were young in the faith or those who hadn’t grown into deeper maturity and understanding when it came to their faith. The length of time a person has been saved often does not parallel a spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity does happen over time, but it happens through the study of the Word and through prayer.*

What are you not supposed to do with a person who might not have the same spiritual understanding that you have (vs 1)?

****Extreme caution needs to be used when looking at these verses and attempting to apply them. Most people want to think that they are the more mature believers. Other people often want to use this idea to think that they have a right to indulge in the flesh because they are “more mature.” Paul just addressed living in the flesh at the end of chapter 13. Here the main focus is Paul trying to help believers from all different walks of life live in unity.*

What common quarrel did the early believers have (vs 2)? Why?

****Jewish dietary laws prohibited them from eating certain things. Even after God told Peter that he could eat what he wanted (Acts 10:9-16), it was still very difficult for Jews to break the laws they had adhered to for so long. The church was also made up of other people who had come from different religions who had their own standards of right and wrong when it came to eating. Another problem with food is that much of the meat of*

that day came from the markets which sold meat which had been offered as a sacrifice in the temple.

What do you think are similar disagreements the church may face today?

How are we supposed to treat those who have different personal standards than we do (vs 3)?

Acts 10:9-17

What was Peter doing (vs 9-10)?

What did he see (vs 11-12)?

What did the voice tell Peter to do (vs 13)?

Why did Peter not understand what God was telling him (vs 14)?

Why do you think God repeated this three times (vs 15-16)?

What was Peter's response (vs 17)?

****The passage goes on to describe how God was revealing to Peter that Jews and Gentiles were no longer to be separate. The Gentiles would receive the Holy Spirit and neither the Jews nor the Gentiles would be under the Old Testament Law.*

I Timothy 4:1-5

What did Paul say would happen in later times (vs 1-2)?

What would these people require (vs 3)?

What did Paul make clear about all food (vs 4)?

What do you think verse 5 means?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Tuesday

Study: Romans 14:4-6, James 4:11-12, Matthew 7:1-5

Reading: Galatians 6:1-10, James 5:13-20

Memory: Matthew 5:27

Romans 14:4-6

What should you not do (vs 4a)?

What do we need to realize about judging others (vs 4b)?

What does this reveal about the way you live each day?

What is the next area of dispute that Paul moved on to (vs 5)?

What do you think the end of verse 5 means?

****Paul will make this clear in the passage, but he wants each believer to know how important it is to be led by God. There are many things in life the Bible does not address and each believer has to decide what God would want them to do. These are choices that you need to make based on what God wants and not what others think or do.*

How can we as individual believers act differently, but still bring honor to God by our actions (vs 6)?

****Paul is very clear in these verses that He is not giving believers the liberty to sin and do what their flesh desires. Paul is not referring to direct violations of biblical commands. He is merely describing how all believers have different opinions and standards when it comes to items that are not directly forbidden or required by God. Your flesh will want you to think that your way is the only right way, but in many areas of your life, your way may not be best for someone else.*

James 4:11-12

What are you not supposed to do toward other brothers (vs 11)?

What are you doing when you speak evil of others (vs 11)?

What argumentation does Paul use in verse 11?

****When you choose to judge, you have taken on the role of God. You have exalted yourself to a position as judge of the law rather than a follower of the law.*

What does James say about the true judge (vs 12a)?

How should this remind you not to judge your neighbor (vs 12b)?

****It must be remembered that when Scripture is referring to judging others, it is not in reference to direct violations of Scripture. For instance, the Bible declares that homosexuality is wrong. If a person claims to be a believer and is living in homosexuality you are not “judging” them when you confront them about their sin. You become judgmental when you put the person down or think more negatively about them because of their sin.*

Matthew 7:1-5

What are you not supposed to do (vs 1)? Why (vs 2)?

What is it easy for you to see (vs 3)? What does this mean?

What should you do before you attempt to help someone else (vs 4-5)?

Does this verse tell you you should never try to help someone else (vs 5b)? Explain.

How do you know if you that are attempting to help a person or if you are judging a person?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Wednesday

Study: Romans 14:7-9, Philippians 2:1-11, I Corinthians 6:12-20

Reading: Luke 9:23-27, I Corinthians 9:19-27

Memory: Matthew 5:27

Romans 14:7-9

****Verse 6 describes how whatever you choose to do, you need to honor the Lord with your choice. This is in contrast with trying to please others by doing or not doing what they think you should do.*

What do you think verse 7 & 8 means?

****Your life is not your own once you are a believer. You are to be submitted to God in all that you do. Following Christ could even lead to the loss of your life for His sake. If you live, it is to be a living sacrifice unto God (12:1) and if you die, you are to be willing to lose your life for His sake.*

Take a moment to think about how much of your life is controlled by what others think and how much is controlled by what God thinks. Write down any areas where you find yourself often controlled by the opinion of men.

Why did Jesus come to earth and die (vs 9)?

Why is it so important to continually make Him Lord of your life?

Philippians 2:1-11

How did Paul say that the believers could make him full of joy (vs 1-2)?

What should you not do (vs 3)?

What should be the motive for our actions (vs 3)?

What should we pay careful attention to (vs 4)?

What type of mind set do you need to have each day (vs 5)?

How did Christ choose to live (vs 6-7)?

How did Jesus set the ultimate example of humility (vs 8)?

What did God do for Jesus (vs 9-10)?

I Corinthians 6:12-20

Though Paul said, “All things are lawful for me,” how did he clarify how he was going to choose what to do and what not to do (vs 12)?

What is the body not meant for (vs 13)? What is it meant for (vs 13)?

What argument is Paul making in verses 14-15?

What did Paul reveal about sexual sin (vs 16)?

What happens when you choose to become a believer (vs 17)?

What are you to flee from (vs 18)?

What is your body (vs 19)?

What does it mean that you are not your own (vs 19)?

How does this coincide with what Paul was teaching in Romans 14?

What are you to do with your life (vs 20)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Thursday

Study: Romans 14:10-12, II Corinthians 5:6-10, Luke 8:9-14,

Reading: Luke 6:37-42

Memory: Matthew 5:27

Romans 14:10-12

Why did Paul ask the questions he did at the beginning of verse 10?

What does Paul declare about standing before God (vs 10b)? Why did he state this?

What does “it is written” mean (vs 11)?

****Many of the New Testament epistles have quotes from the Old Testament. Not all of them begin with “it is written,” but in many places, as in here, Paul makes it very clear He is quoting the Old Testament.*

What will all people do one day (vs 11)?

What point was Paul making by using the quote from Isaiah 45:23?

Why is the realization that you are individually accountable to God important when it comes to the area of judging others?

II Corinthians 5:6-10

What does verse 6 reveal about your eternal existence (vs 6)?

How should believers walk (vs 7)?

What did Paul say about his earthly life (vs 8)?

What should be your life’s goal (vs 9)?

What must we all do (vs 10)?

How does God judge all men (vs 10b)?

Luke 18:9-14

What was the topic of the parable Jesus gave here (vs 9)?

What was the difference between these two men (vs 10)?

****Pharisees were religious leaders who were looked up to while tax collectors (publicans) were generally despised. They were viewed as traitors because they worked for the Roman government and they were often known for cheating others.*

What marked the prayer of the Pharisee (vs 11-12)?

How is this prayer full of judgmental thoughts?

What was the tax collector too ashamed to do (vs 13)?

What did He realize about himself (vs 13b)?

How did this keep him from becoming judgmental?

What did Jesus declare about the prayers of these two men (vs 14a)?

How does humility and pride affect the way you pass judgment upon other people?

List some of the areas in your life where you tend to judge others.

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Friday

Study: Romans 14:1-4

Reading: Romans 14:1-23

Memory: Matthew 5:27

What Does the Bible Say?

It is assumed that the majority of the people in the Roman church had been saved for a short period of time. Each believer had things in their past that carried over into their Christian life that needed to be dealt with. One of the issues Paul addressed was eating food that had been offered to idols. Those who had a Jewish background were taught that certain meats were wrong to eat as they followed strict dietary laws that had been given to the children of Israel. Those who had been saved out of the pagan culture were very familiar with the practice of offering meat unto idols and how that meat was used in the idol worship. As these new believers met together, a conflict developed concerning what the believers could and couldn't eat.

Paul understood the liberty he had in Christ to eat whatever food he wanted, because He understood how Christ freed him from the rights and rituals of religion. He was now free to love Christ and his decisions were based on love and his desire to bring glory to God. In I Timothy 4:4, Paul told Timothy, "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving." When Paul referred to the one who abstained from certain foods as the "weaker" brother, it wasn't a negative term, but was a description of a believer who struggled letting go of the regulations of the Jewish religion.

Those who didn't struggle in this area weren't to reject those who did, but were to welcome him as long as the weaker brother wasn't going to cause arguing and fighting because of his stance on the food he ate (vs 1). Those who ate meat weren't to look down on the ones who didn't and those who didn't weren't to look down on those who did. It was not the believer's job to judge other believers in this area. It was up to each believer to allow God to examine his or her life and let God tell them if they were doing right or wrong (vs 2-4).

How Does this Apply to Me?

You might be thinking, “What does eating meat have to do with my Christian life today?” In our day and age, eating meat that had been offered to idols or abstaining from certain meats aren’t much of an issue, (at least in many parts of the world), but there have been other things that have taken their place. The principle that Paul was teaching the Romans is still applicable and is much needed in Christianity today. You need to realize that it is not your job to judge whether another believer is sinning or not sinning, but your job is to examine yourself before God. Something that another person might consider sin for them, might not be sin for you. Something that you think is a sin, might not be a sin for another person. This is very difficult for some people to understand, especially for certain personalities. Some people naturally want everything to be black and white, but there are many “gray areas” when it comes to practical daily living. This is why God has given each believer His Spirit to help him know what is best for the cause of Christ.

This doesn’t mean that a person can make up their own rules about what is godly and what is not. The things that Paul was referring to were not biblical absolutes. For instance, it is sin to steal from another person. This is a biblical absolute that leaves no room to question whether stealing is right or wrong. On the other hand, an issue in today’s society might be the way we dress, the television shows that we watch or the music we listen to. None of these are biblical absolutes, but there are biblical principles to follow to help determine what God does and doesn’t want you to do. The main point that Paul was trying to get across is that God wants you to spend less time judging others for what they do or don’t do, and more time focusing on yourself and what He wants you to do or not do.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit to help you know His will.*
- * *Ask God to help you judge yourself and not others.*
- * *Praise God because He knows what is best for you.*

Thought for the day

Saturday

Study: Romans 14:5-12

Reading: Matthew 7:1-5, Galatians 6:1-5, I Peter 4:1-6

Memory: Matthew 5:27

What Does the Bible Say?

The Jewish and Gentile believers in the Roman church were saved out of different backgrounds, which caused some conflict in the Roman church. There was disagreement over what a person could eat (vs 1-4), and there was also disagreement over what days a person should respect and honor.

The Jews held the Sabbath day as a day of honor where no work should be done, while the Gentiles saw no reason to treat the Sabbath day any different. There were also week long festivals that God had established for the Israelites that the Jews held dear. On the other hand, there were special days on the Roman calendar that the Gentiles observed and the Jews didn’t. When these two (and sometimes more) cultures were getting together, they had to work through some of these issues.

Paul responded to their disagreements by telling the people that each person needed to be convinced in his own mind as to which days God wanted to be special (vs 5). Whatever day a person would choose to observe was fine as long as they were bringing honor to the Lord through their observation of the day. The same principle also applied to those who chose to eat meat or not eat meat. Paul wanted the Romans not to put all of their attention on the outward acts, but to pay careful attention to the reason they were carrying out those acts and the affect their actions would have on others around them (vs 6).

Paul made it clear that once a person becomes a believer they are no longer to live for themselves. Believers belong to God. Our lives shouldn’t be about us and what we want or don’t want, but should be about God and bringing glory and honor to Him. Christ died and rose again so that He could be our Lord, and since He is our Lord, we need to do what He desires us to do (vs 7-9).

Because Jesus is our Lord and we do what we do to please Him, we have no reason to judge our fellow Christians for what they do or don’t do. We don’t have to give an account of our lives to others, but we will have

to give an account before God. To prove this, Paul quoted from Isaiah 45:23 which reiterated the fact that we will all bow before Jesus Christ one day. If He is going to be our judge in the future, we need to make Him our Master right now (vs 10-12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Why do you make the choices that you make? Why do you do the things that you do? Whether you like to admit it or not, it is easy to allow your life to be controlled by what other people think. When you allow the thinking of others to control your life or when you try to control another's life with your opinions, you will not be living the way that God wants you to live. When you are controlled by anyone but God, you will not experience the fulness of joy that God wants you to have. There are Christians who are unhappy because they spend most of their lives trying to please others rather than taking the time to search out what God wants them to do. This is why all your decisions need to be based on what God says in His Word.

You also need to learn the simple but important lesson that all people are different. Just because someone else is doing something you don't like, doesn't mean that they are wrong. If you are doing something that someone else doesn't like, that doesn't make you wrong. Your decisions and choices need to be controlled by God. As you pray about those things, God will show you what He wants you to do and what He doesn't want you to do. There could be something that He wants you to do, but doesn't want someone else to do the same thing, or live the same way you are living. You must remember that you are accountable for yourself and the choices that you make.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for being your Lord.
- * Ask God to help you place your life in His control.
- * Praise God because He is Lord over all.

Thought for the day

Sunday

Reading: Romans 14:1-12

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Memory

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'