

# *Romans 14*

Stick to essentials, liberty in nonessentials

In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All  
Things Charity

faith; weak in the faith; Legalism; Judging Others; the Lord  
is able; Bema Seat of Christian Judgment; at the name of  
Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW; Stumble

# BIBLE IN FIVE

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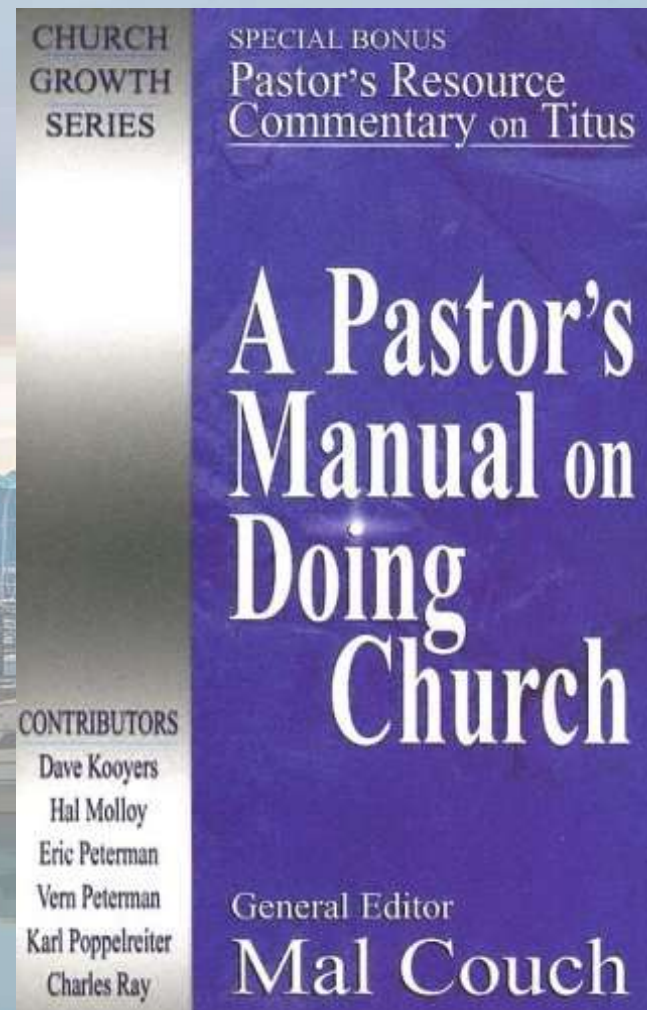
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*Your servant in Christ, 2Cor. 4:5*



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*Matthew 10:8 ...Freely you received, freely give.*

# Let's read Romans 14



# Romans Outline

- Sinners All, 1-3
- Salvation is by grace alone, 3:21-5
- Sanctification, our walk, 6-7
- Sovereign security and assurance, 8
- Salvation, privileges, position, promises of Israel, 9-11
- Service to God, 12
- Submit to Authorities for God, 13
- **Stick to essentials, liberty in nonessentials, 14**
- Serve each other, singing rejoicing, 15:1-19
- Saints to visit, 15:20-16:27

# In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity

by [Mark Ross](#)

- “Philip Schaff, the distinguished nineteenth-century church historian, calls the saying in our title “the watchword of Christian peacemakers” (*History of the Christian Church*, vol. 7, p. 650). Often attributed to great theologians such as Augustine, it comes from an otherwise undistinguished German Lutheran theologian of the early seventeenth century, Rupertus Meldenius. The phrase occurs in a tract on Christian unity written (circa 1627)... The saying has found great favor among subsequent writers such as Richard Baxter, and has since been adopted as a motto by the Moravian Church of North America and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Might it serve us well as a motto for every church and for every denomination today?...”

# In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity

- Usually we are mostly concerned about the “Essentials”
- Tonight however we are concerned primarily about the “Non-Essentials”

# Romans 14:1

## Someone Weak In Faith

- NAS Romans 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

# Romans 14:1, “faith”

- NAU Romans 14:1 ...in faith...
- Romans uses the word “faith” more than any other any other book of the Bible. The OT only uses it 4 X’s.
- Romans chapter 14 uses it 5 X’s.
- Tonight we will read the word “faith” more times than if you were to read the entire Old Testament.

# Romans 14:1, “his opinions”

- NAU Romans 14:1 ...not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.
- Romans 14 is about secondary issues, not essentials, the Scripture is very clear about the essentials.
- Tonight we're concerned about the weaker brother, and “his opinions” concerning issues that are not clear in the Bible.

# Romans 14:1

## “weak in the faith”

- NAS Romans 14:1 ...weak in faith...
- ESV CSB NAS NAU ...weak in faith...
- KJG GNV YLT NKJ NET KJV ...weak in the faith...
- NIV NIVO ...whose faith is weak...
- BGT BYZ ... τῇ πίστει ...
- NJB ...whose faith is not strong...
- Someone who is “weak in the faith” means they are not a mature Christian.

# Romans 14:1

## “weak in the faith”

- Paul is saying that mature Christians must be very gracious to immature Christians. Overlooking their unbiblical opinions on non-essentials.
- NAS 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly...
- NAU 1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

# Question: "What does the Bible say about legalism?... [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

- “Answer: The word “legalism” does not occur in the Bible. It is a term Christians use to describe a doctrinal position emphasizing a system of rules and regulations for achieving both salvation and spiritual growth. Legalists believe in and demand a strict literal adherence to rules and regulations. Doctrinally, it is a position essentially opposed to grace. Those who hold a legalistic position often fail to see the real purpose for law, especially the purpose of the Old Testament law of Moses, which is to be our “schoolmaster” or “tutor” to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). Even true believers can be legalistic. We are instructed, rather, to be gracious to one another:...The apostle Paul warns us of legalism in Colossians 2:20-23: “Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’? ... Legalists may appear to be righteous and spiritual, but legalism ultimately fails to accomplish God’s purposes... A word of caution is necessary here. While we need to be gracious to one another and tolerant of disagreement over disputable matters, we cannot accept heresy. ...(Jude 3)...”

# Romans 14:4-13, Judge Righteously, Judging Others

- NAU Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
- NAU Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.
- NAU 1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?

# Romans 14:4-13, Judge Righteously, Judging Others

- Jesus said in;
- NAU Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged.
- NAU John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
- NAU 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

# Romans 14:4, He Is Able

- Romans 14:4...**the Lord is able** to make him stand.
- 2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
- Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability, that counts. Corrie ten Boom
- Charles Finney said, "Often, without being at all aware of it, men judge themselves, not by God's rule, but by their own."

# Romans 14:5, Celebrating The Feasts

- **Q.** The real reason that Christians do not celebrate feasts and holidays of the Lord is because years ago, Roman Christians sought to remove all the Jewishness from Christianity. It had nothing to do with what Jesus said because he celebrated all the feasts and holidays of his Father and we need to do the same.
- **A.** Jesus observed the feasts because He was a Jewish man living in Israel in the time before the Church was born.
- After the Church was born Paul wrote, *"One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind"* (**Romans 14:5**). And in **Colossians 2:16-17** he added, *"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."*
- I agree that the Roman church tried to distance itself from our Jewish roots, and I support your choice to observe the feasts if you believe it's the right thing for you to do. But telling others they need to do the same is not Biblically correct.

# Romans 14:10

## Bema Seat Christian Judgment

- NAU Romans 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- NAU 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- NAU 2 Thessalonians 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

# Romans 14:10

## Bema Seat Christian Judgment

- There is a judgment for Christians, not for salvation but for rewards, an examination of earthly deeds we did after our salvation.
- NAU 1 Corinthians 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

# Romans 14:10

## Bema Seat Christian Judgment

- The Bema Seat judgment is not for judging sin, Jesus accomplish that on the cross. The Bema Seat judgment tests the motives of good works, do they stand the test? Were the good works accomplished through the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. If so, they will be rewarded.
- Colossians 2:13-14, 3:23-25

# Romans 14:10

Question: "What does the Bible mean that we are not to judge others?" [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

- Answer: Jesus' command not to judge others could be the most widely quoted of His sayings...
- The Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean we cannot show discernment. Immediately after Jesus says, "Do not judge," He says, "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs" (Matthew 7:6). A little later in the same sermon, He says, "Watch out for false prophets. . . . By their fruit you will recognize them" (verses 15–16). How are we to discern who are the "dogs" and "pigs" and "false prophets" unless we have the ability to make a judgment call on doctrines and deeds? Jesus is giving us permission to tell right from wrong....And the Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean there should be no mechanism for dealing with sin. ... Elsewhere, Jesus gives a direct command to judge: "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (John 7:24)....
- Superficial judgment is wrong. Passing judgment on someone based solely

# Romans 14:10

Question: "What does the Bible mean that we are not to judge others?" [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

- on appearances is sinful (John 7:24)....
- Hypocritical judgment is wrong. ...(Matthew 6:2, 5, 16) ...
- Harsh, unforgiving judgment is wrong. We are “always to be gentle toward everyone” (Titus 3:2)....
- Self-righteous judgment is wrong. ...(James 4:6). ...(Luke 18:9–14)...
- Untrue judgment is wrong. ...(Titus 3:2).
- Christians are often accused of “judging” or intolerance when they speak out against sin....(Mark 6:18–19).
- Believers are warned against judging others unfairly or unrighteously, but Jesus commends “right judgment” (John 7:24, ESV). We are to be discerning (Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). We are to preach the whole counsel of God, including the Bible’s teaching on sin (Acts 20:27; 2 Timothy 4:2). We are to gently confront erring brothers or sisters in Christ (Galatians 6:1). We are to practice church discipline (Matthew 18:15–17). We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

# Romans 14:10, Our Heavenly Body

## A Bible Study by Jack Kelley

- “... The judgment seat of Christ is also called the bema seat judgment. (The Greek word “bema” simply means “judgment seat”.)
- This judgment will take place after the rapture/resurrection so it doesn’t have anything to do with our salvation. Everyone there will be saved and in the presence of the Lord forever.
- It will concern what we did for the Lord during our Christian life here on earth. In 1 Cor. 3:10-15 Paul said the Lord will divide the things we did into two groups. One group will be compared to gold, silver and precious gems; things that have

# Romans 14:10, Our Heavenly Body

## A Bible Study by Jack Kelley

- value. In 2 Cor. 5:10 these things are called “good”. The other group will be compared to wood, hay, and stubble, things only suitable for burning in the judgment fire. These are called “bad” in 2 Cor. 5:10.
- In his summary statement of this judgment Paul said, “If it (what we’ve done) is burned up he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames” (1 Cor. 3:15).
- Taken together, these two passages confirm that the judgment seat of Christ is not for the purpose of reviewing every good or bad thing we’ve ever done, it’s for the purpose of identifying which of the things we’ve done qualify for special recognition...”

# Romans 14:10+23b

## Bema Seat, Rewards

AND LET US  
  
**NOT GROW WEARY  
OF DOING GOOD**

FOR IN DUE SEASON WE WILL REAP,  
IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

GALATIANS 6:9

# Romans 14:11, Bowed To Him

- Romans 14:11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."
- Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Isaiah 45:21-23 "...Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me. <sup>22</sup> "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other....That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.

# Romans 14:13

## The More Obstacles You Have

- <sup>NAU</sup> Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.
- "The more obstacles you have, the more opportunities there are for God to do something." Clarence W. Jones (1900-1986, Missionary to Ecuador)

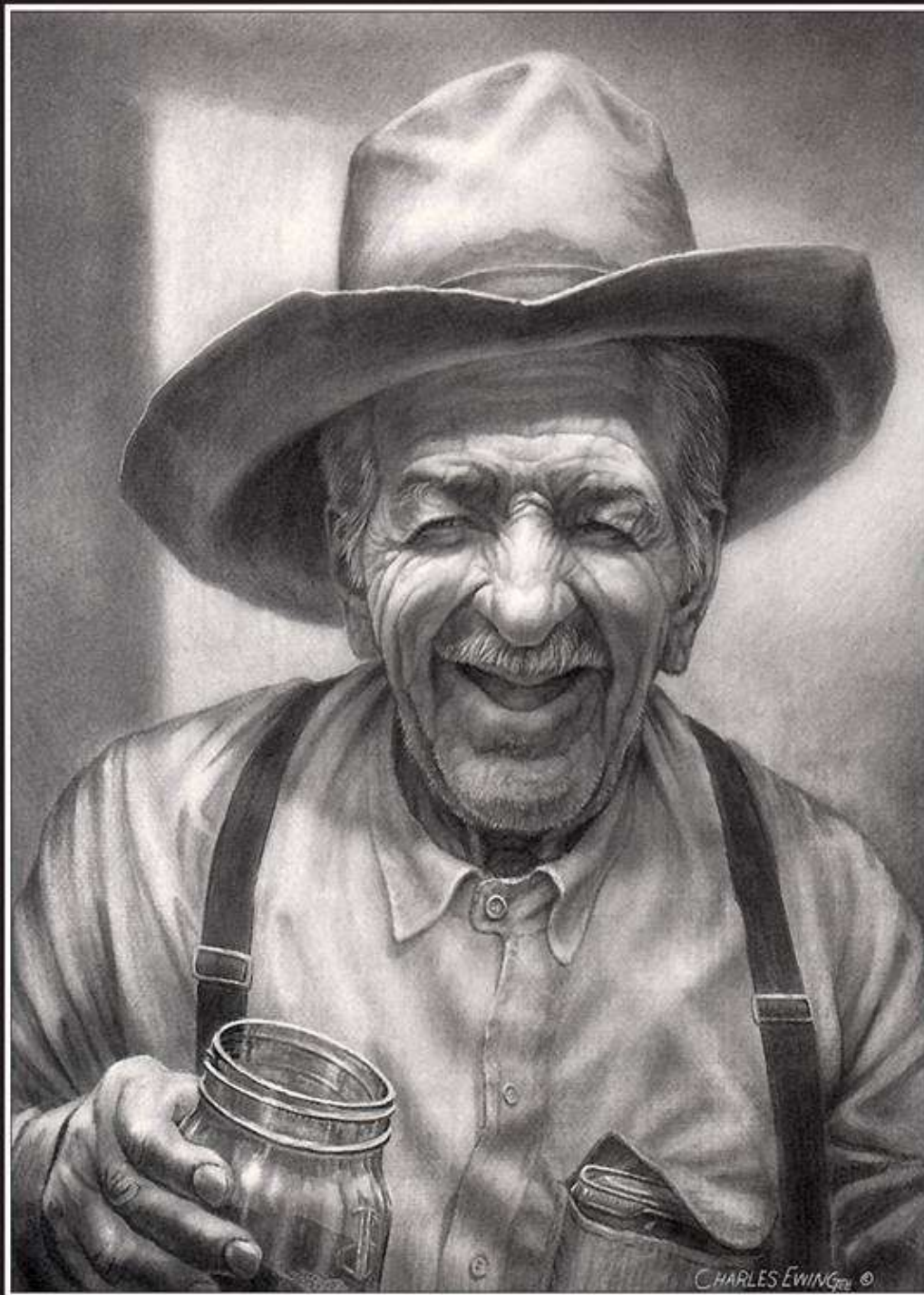
# Romans 14:17

## The Joy Set Before Him

- Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...
- James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- 2 Corinthians 7:4 ...I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.
- “Joy cannot be pursued. It comes from within. It is a state of being. It does not depend on circumstances, but triumphs over circumstances. It produces a gentleness of spirit and a magnetic personality.” Billy Graham

# Rom 14:20-23, Don't Stumble Brothers

- Rom 14:20-23 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.



# Romans 14:21

## Smile

- NAU Romans 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

# Romans 14:21 Acts 15:19-21, Bible Knowledge Commentary

- “The Gentiles were to abstain from three items: (a) food polluted by idols, (b) sexual immorality, and (c) the meat of strangled animals and... blood. Many Bible teachers say these are only ceremonial matters. The food polluted by idols is explained in verse 29 as "food sacrificed to idols" (cf. 21:25). This then, it is argued, looks at the same problem Paul discussed (1 Cor 8-10). The abstinence from sexual immorality is explained as referring to the marriage laws of Lev 18:6-20. The prohibition against eating blood is taken to refer to Lev 17:10-14. All three prohibitions according to this interpretation look back to the Jewish ceremonial Law.”

# Romans 14:22, Happy

- NAU Romans 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.
- NAU Proverbs 14:21 He who despises his neighbor sins, But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.
- NAU Jonah 4:6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.
- The place to be happy is here;
- The time to be happy is now;
- The way to be happy is to make others so. Unknown

# Romans 14:22, Should Christians refuse service to sinners?

- NAU Romans 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- They are sinners, of course they sin! We are Christ ambassadors to them with the good news of salvation.
- NAU 1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any **so-called brother** if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. 12 For **what have I to do with judging outsiders**? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are
- NAU Matthew 9:10 Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and **sinners** came and were **dining with Jesus** and His **disciples**.

# Romans 14:23, Anxiety, Doubts

- NKJ Romans 14:23 "But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin."
- NKJ Luke 24:38 "And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"
- NKJ Galatians 4:20 "I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you."
- NKJ James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."
- *Edith Armstrong* said, "I keep the telephone of my mind open to peace, harmony, health, love and abundance. Then, whenever doubts, anxiety, or fear try to call me, they keep getting a busy signal- and soon they'll forget my number."

Romans 14:23, The Berean Call full article after “THE END”

## Who Shapes Our Conscience?

- “What determines our values in today's fast-changing world? Who imprints its values on our conscience? Do parents? Teachers? The Media? Or our omnipotent God? ...the Christian conscience played a leading role in American schools and families....We live in a new era! The Bible-trained conscience has largely been replaced by contrary guidelines that twist, scorn, or deny God's truth. Some still point to a conscience, but most people redefine it to match today's cultural values and personal inclinations...
- ...Martin Luther dared take a stand against the reign of a corrupt and oppressive church back in April 1521. For his uncompromising faith, he was declared an outlaw on May 25. You may remember his words: "...it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen" ("English Bible History: Martin Luther" at <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/martin-luther.html>)..."
- <http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/0013/1-bible-based-conscience.htm>
- The Berean Call [via thebereancall.ccsend.com](http://thebereancall.ccsend.com)

# So, in conclusion, 10 points;

- 4. Gone are the days when girls cooked like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.
- 5. You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone you've just met? That's common sense leaving your body.
- 6. I don't like making plans for the day. Because then the word "premeditated" gets thrown around in the courtroom.



THE END



When the pastor suddenly calls on you  
to pray.



# Romans 14:22, Should Christians refuse service to sinners?

- To Serve, Or Not To Serve
- Christian Business in a Political World, By Jeff Laird
- Should a Christian business owner refuse service to someone, on the grounds that they don't approve of that person's sin? Or should they serve anyway, as an opportunity to witness? It's hard to believe the US court system actually had to consider whether or not a citizen has the right to make such decisions, let alone tell them they don't. But for a believer, moral concerns come before legal ones. What does the Bible say about this dilemma?
- There's no way to make a blanket statement on this issue that would apply to all believers in all situations. The Bible gives us clear instructions on how we're supposed to live, and guidelines for how to interact with others. But how we apply these has a lot to do with the specific circumstances we find ourselves in. One lesson God intended us to learn through the Law (Romans 7:4-6) is that true obedience means continual submission to the Holy Spirit, not just black-and-white rules and regulations (Luke 9:23).
- The only way for the unbelieving world to hear the Gospel is if we live it out, and proclaim it (Romans 10:14). Totally avoiding everybody who rejects Christ or lives in sin would require us to live on a different planet (1 Corinthians 5:9-11). We can't be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-15) unless we engage. Light has to shine into darkness in order to be meaningful, and salt has to get into the food in order change its flavor. "T something one does not like; it does not require approval or support. So, Christians ought to be as (literally) tolerant as we can, in order for our lov (Matthew 5:16).
- Serving someone coffee, selling them a car, or even renting them a hotel reasonable to say most business transactions suggest no particular moral both legally and morally, is probably to tolerate, witness, and interact. Pa exposed to those with whom we disagree; a principle that is meant to wo sides of an issue.
- On the other hand, some dealings do imply a level of moral or social agree expression. Musical performance, specialized foods, artwork, photography, and so forth require a person to directly invest their creativity and expression. In those cases, a Christian has a much stronger moral case to refuse involvement



# An Earthly Tent And A Heavenly House

- Our Heavenly Body
- Saturday, March 1st, 2014 [Christian Life](#)
- [Featured](#)
- A Bible Study by Jack Kelley
- *In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you (John 14:2).*
- Recently I had someone object to my belief that Jesus was referring to our eternal home in the New Jerusalem when He said this. This person's opinion is that Jesus was talking about our post resurrection body and he cited **2 Cor. 5:1-2** in support of it.
- When I looked up the Greek text of **John 14:2**, I found that the word "rooms" (mansions in the KJV) is a translation of a Greek word that means "a dwelling, or abode".
- To be fair, the word "dwelling" also appears in some English translations of **2 Cor. 5:2** but it's translated from a different Greek word. It's also clear that Paul was speaking metaphorically in **2 Cor. 5** because he referred to our earthly body as a tent (temporary) but our heavenly body as a house (permanent).
- For me the clincher is that in **John 14:2** Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for us. The Greek word translated "place" can mean anything from a marked off space to an inhabited city, but is never used to refer to a body. This means Jesus was going to prepare a physical location for us to live in.
- I don't think the person who posted the objection was persuaded to my point of view, and I know I wasn't persuaded to his, but that's not the point of this study. What I want to do is explore **2 Cor. 5:1-10** in a little more depth because reading it again reminded me of some really interesting information about what's in store for us. Let's take it a verse or two at a time.
- An Earthly Tent And A Heavenly House
- *For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands (2 Cor. 5:1).*
- Right away we can see that Paul was using terms to represent our bodies. Most of us don't live in tents, and even if we do our earthly home does not have to be destroyed before we can go to our heavenly one. But our earthly body, which is the temporary home of our spirit, has to give way to our heavenly body in order for our spirit to receive its permanent home. For most, the earthly body will die and return to dust, and the heavenly body will replace it at the resurrection. But for one group, the earthly body will simply be transformed into the heavenly one at the rapture of the Church (**1 Cor. 15:51-53**).
- *Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. (2 Cor. 5:2-3)*
- When believers die their spirits go directly to be with the Lord (**2 Cor. 5:6-8, Phil 1:22-24**), while their earthly bodies are buried in the ground and quickly return to dust. At the time of their resurrection they will be given new heavenly bodies while we who are still living will be changed from mortal to immortal and together we'll all go with the Lord to His Father's house (**1 Thes. 4:16-17**).
- In the mean time these spirits feel like a part of them is missing, as if they are naked (Greek: without a body). They long for the time when they'll be clothed in their heavenly bodies. I believe this is because we can only experience the full extent of the blessings of our eternal life as physical beings.
- *For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life (2 Cor. 5:4).*
- In this verse Paul added clothing as another metaphor. As physical beings we don't look forward to dying, because that will be like being naked. What we look forward to is being raptured, because that will be like having our old set of worn out clothing instantly changed into a new and much better set that will never wear out. Richer fabric, perfect fit, extremely comfortable; clothes we have always been meant to wear.
- The Old Has Gone, The New Has Come
- *Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come (2 Cor. 5:5).*
- Fashioning something is the process of making it into something else, usually for a specific purpose. "He took a piece of wood and fashioned it into a leg for the table he was building." It's no longer just an ordinary piece of wood. It has been changed into something better, something that serves a specific purpose.
- God began with us as we were and through the cross fashioned us into someone else. *"When you were dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive in Christ" (Ephes 2:13).* His very purpose in doing this is so we can be clothed in our heavenly body.
- The craftsman will never again think of the table leg as a random piece of wood. He now thinks of it as something he made. In the same way God will never again think of you as you used to be. He now thinks of you as a new creation in Christ. To Him, the old you has gone and the new you has come (**2 Cor. 5:17**). Then He put His Spirit in you as a deposit guaranteeing that this will happen.
- *Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-8).*
- The confidence Paul spoke of comes from knowing that even though we are still in our earthly body, our destiny is to be with the Lord in our heavenly body. Therefore we live by what we believe to be true, not by what we see. No earthly event can shake us because by faith we know what is coming. No matter who is in office, no matter what laws get passed, no matter how much of its value our money has lost, no matter what this dark and dying world thinks of us, we know what the outcome will be because the one who fashioned us for this very purpose is God.
- Here Comes The Judge
- *So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:9-10).*
- Whether we are dead and gone or alive and well our goal is to please God. The judgment seat of Christ is also called the bema seat judgment. (The Greek word "bema" simply means "judgment seat".)
- This judgment will take place after the rapture/resurrection so it doesn't have anything to do with our salvation. Everyone there will be saved and in the presence of the Lord forever.
- It will concern what we did for the Lord during our Christian life here on earth. In **1 Cor. 3:10-15** Paul said the Lord will divide the things we did into two groups. One group will be compared to gold, silver and precious gems; things that have value. In **2 Cor. 5:10** these things are called "good". The other group will be compared to wood, hay, and stubble, things only suitable for burning in the judgment fire. These are called "bad" in **2 Cor. 5:10**.
- In his summary statement of this judgment Paul said, *"If it (what we've done) is burned up he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames" (1 Cor. 3:15).*
- Taken together, these two passages confirm that the judgment seat of Christ is not for the purpose of reviewing every good or bad thing we've ever done, it's for the purpose of identifying which of the things we've done qualify for special recognition.
- In **John 15:5-6** Jesus said if we remain in Him and He in us we will bear much fruit; apart from Him we can do nothing. He said those who don't remain in Him are like branches that are thrown away and wither. Such branches are thrown into the fire and burned up.
- Some see this as a passage that denies OSAS, thinking that if we don't remain in Jesus He will throw us into the fires of judgment. They don't understand that Jesus wasn't talking about salvation here because salvation is not a fruit bearing event. It's what we do after being saved that determines whether we bear fruit or not. He was talking about what we do with our life as a believer.
- In order to bear fruit as a believer we have to remain "in Him". That means we have to see Him as our Lord, not just our Savior, and submit to His direction for our life. By remaining in us Jesus was referring to the supernatural power He makes available to believers. Many of us have experienced this power when by yielding our will to his and placing the outcome of an action in His hands, we've enjoyed a result that surpassed our human capacity to produce. Adopting this as a lifestyle will make our Christian life fruitful beyond anything we could have done on our own.
- In contrast, going off on our own can produce nothing of value to the Kingdom. No matter how great the results of our actions look in human terms, the Lord sees the things we do apart from His guidance and His strength as nothing more than withered branches, suitable only for the fire.
- When I compare **John 15:5-6** to **1 Cor. 3:10-15** and **2 Cor. 5:10** I conclude that when we're before the judgment seat of Christ it won't be the results we produce as believers that will matter. It's the motives behind them that will be judged. Things done at the Lord's direction and in His strength will be like gold, silver, and precious gems in His eyes. Those done out of our own volition and in our own strength will have no value.
- This explains Paul's admonition in **1 Cor. 4:5**.
- *"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God."*
- It also explains why discovering God's will for our lives requires that we first offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, and that we stop conforming to the pattern of this world, allowing ourselves instead to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (**Romans 12:2**). Only by doing that can we remain in Him and He in us.
- In summary, there's a heavenly body awaiting us. It's the permanent home for our spirit, to replace this temporary earthly one. God has fashioned us into a new creation for the express purpose of inhabiting it, and sent His Son to die for our sins to make it possible. Or as some one said, "The man from Heaven became outfitted for Earth so men from Earth could be outfitted for heaven." Selah 03-01-14.

# Romans 14:10, Bema Seat, Rewards , Judgment Day

- Today is September 28, 2012
- Verse of the Day -- Revelation 22:12 *Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.*
- THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
- Will you qualify for a reward on Judgment Day?
- MINI BIBLE STUDY FOR THE DAY
- Bible scholars have debated for years about the rewards and judgment that will transpire at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15). Since we know that our sins have been cast "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12) and that we can do nothing on our own, apart from Christ working in us (John 15:5), it is natural to question the nature of this divine, and very real, judgment.
- We believe there is one thing that God asks of Believers that could possibly be the basis for this judgment. It is the one thing He has always asked. It is where many of the Israelites failed and where many Christians still struggle.
- It is simply a question of "faith."
- Everything we do, think, say or feel reflects whether or not we truly believe God and what He says in His Word.
- We tend to think most verses about believing have to do with salvation. But there is a huge emphasis all through the Bible about God wanting people to simply believe Him—to take Him at His Word in all things (have "faith").
- . . . *whatever is not from faith is sin.* —Romans 14:23b *But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness . . .* —Romans 4:5
- *Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.* —Habakkuk 2:4
- *And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God."* —Mark 11:22
- *for we walk by faith, not by sight* —2 Corinthians 5:7
- *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.* —Galatians 2:20
- *and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith* —Philippians 3:9
- *But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe. (have faith)"* —Mark 5:36
- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,* —John 1:12
- The Bible also says that faith is *"the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1)
- So it seem plausible that God could judge everything we do in light of whether we did it out of faith—trust, assurance, conviction, belief—in Him. That would explain why we could actually do the right thing for the wrong reason or do the wrong thing for the right reason:
- *Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.* — 1 Corinthians 4:5 And the Bible mentions five rewards Believers can receive by faith:

# Romans 14:10, Bema Seat, Rewards , Judgment Day

- Today is November 8, 2013, Verse of the Day -- 2 Corinthians 5:10 *We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
- THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
- Even though believers are declared righteous, our works on earth will be judged by God.
- MINI BIBLE STUDY FOR THE DAY
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is not concerned with our sin as our sin has been separated from us as far as east is from west.
- *He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west. —Psalm 103:12* Rather, Believers will be judged for rewards for what we allowed God to do through us. The "good or bad" reference, at the end of 2 Corinthians 5:10, relates to value, not to morality. *We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.* In the sight of God, each of our works is judged either good/pure or bad/worthless.
- *. . . if any man builds upon (Jesus) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. —1 Corinthians 3:12-15* But how can we as sinners do anything of eternal, everlasting value? We can't. The only good we can do is what we allow God to do through us!
- *I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me. —Philippians 4:13*

# Romans 14:10, Christian Judgment and tears on Judgment Day, by Compass

- NAU Romans 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- The Bible is clear, there IS a judgment day for Christians—not for salvation but for a close examination of earthly deeds.
- *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. —2 Corinthians 5:10. . . For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. —Romans 14:10b*
- *each man's work will become evident; for the [judgment] day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. —1 Corinthians 3:13-15*
- *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. —Colossians 3:23-25*
- However, we also know this Christian judgment day is not for judging sin because:
- *. . . there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. —Romans 8:1 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. —Colossians 2:13-14*
- Therefore if judgment day is not for judging sin, what is God judging? The Bible doesn't specify. Possibly heart motivations. Did the motives for good works stand the test? If that's the case, whatever has been accomplished through the Holy Spirit, for God's glory, would be rewarded. And since there can also be "loss" on judgment day, there could be tears.

# Romans 14:1, Legalism

[gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)

- Question: "What does the Bible say about legalism? How can a Christian avoid falling into the trap of legalism?"
- Answer: The word "legalism" does not occur in the Bible. It is a term Christians use to describe a doctrinal position emphasizing a system of rules and regulations for achieving both salvation and spiritual growth. Legalists believe in and demand a strict literal adherence to rules and regulations. Doctrinally, it is a position essentially opposed to grace. Those who hold a legalistic position often fail to see the real purpose for law, especially the purpose of the Old Testament law of Moses, which is to be our "schoolmaster" or "tutor" to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).
- Even true believers can be legalistic. We are instructed, rather, to be gracious to one another: "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters" (Romans 14:1). Sadly, there are those who feel so strongly about non-essential doctrines that they will run others out of their fellowship, not even allowing the expression of another viewpoint. That, too, is legalism. Many legalistic believers today make the error of demanding unqualified adherence to their own biblical interpretations and even to their own traditions. For example, there are those who feel that to be spiritual one must simply avoid tobacco, alcoholic beverages, dancing, movies, etc. The truth is that avoiding these things is no guarantee of spirituality.
- The apostle Paul warns us of legalism in Colossians 2:20-23: "Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!?' These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence." Legalists may appear to be righteous and spiritual, but legalism ultimately fails to accomplish God's purposes because it is an outward performance instead of an inward change.
- To avoid falling into the trap of legalism, we can start by holding fast to the words of the apostle John, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17) and remembering to be gracious, especially to our brothers and sisters in Christ. "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand" (Romans 14:4). "You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat" (Romans 14:10).

# Romans 14:4, Be A Good Servant

- 1 Timothy 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus
- Mark 9:35 Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."



# Romans 14:10

## Question: "What does the Bible mean that we are not to judge others?"

- Answer: Jesus' command not to judge others could be the most widely quoted of His sayings, even though it is almost invariably quoted in complete disregard of its context. Here is Jesus' statement: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matthew 7:1). Many people use this verse in an attempt to silence their critics, interpreting Jesus' meaning as "You don't have the right tell me I'm wrong." Taken in isolation, Jesus' command "Do not judge" does indeed seem to preclude all negative assessments. However, there is much more to the passage than those three words.
- The Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean we cannot show discernment. Immediately after Jesus says, "Do not judge," He says, "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs" (Matthew 7:6). A little later in the same sermon, He says, "Watch out for false prophets. . . . By their fruit you will recognize them" (verses 15–16). How are we to discern who are the "dogs" and "pigs" and "false prophets" unless we have the ability to make a judgment call on doctrines and deeds? Jesus is giving us permission to tell right from wrong.
- Also, the Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean all actions are equally moral or that truth is relative. The Bible clearly teaches that truth is objective, eternal, and inseparable from God's character. Anything that contradicts the truth is a lie—but, of course, to call something a "lie" is to pass judgment. To call adultery or murder a sin is to likewise to pass judgment—but it's also to agree with God. When Jesus said not to judge others, He did not mean that no one can identify sin for what it is, based on God's definition of sin.
- And the Bible's command that we not judge others does not mean there should be no mechanism for dealing with sin. The Bible has a whole book entitled Judges. The judges in the Old Testament were raised up by God Himself (Judges 2:18). The modern judicial system, including its judges, is a necessary part of society. In saying, "Do not judge," Jesus was not saying, "Anything goes."
- Elsewhere, Jesus gives a direct command to judge: "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (John 7:24). Here we have a clue as to the right type of judgment versus the wrong type. Taking this verse and some others, we can put together a description of the sinful type of judgment:

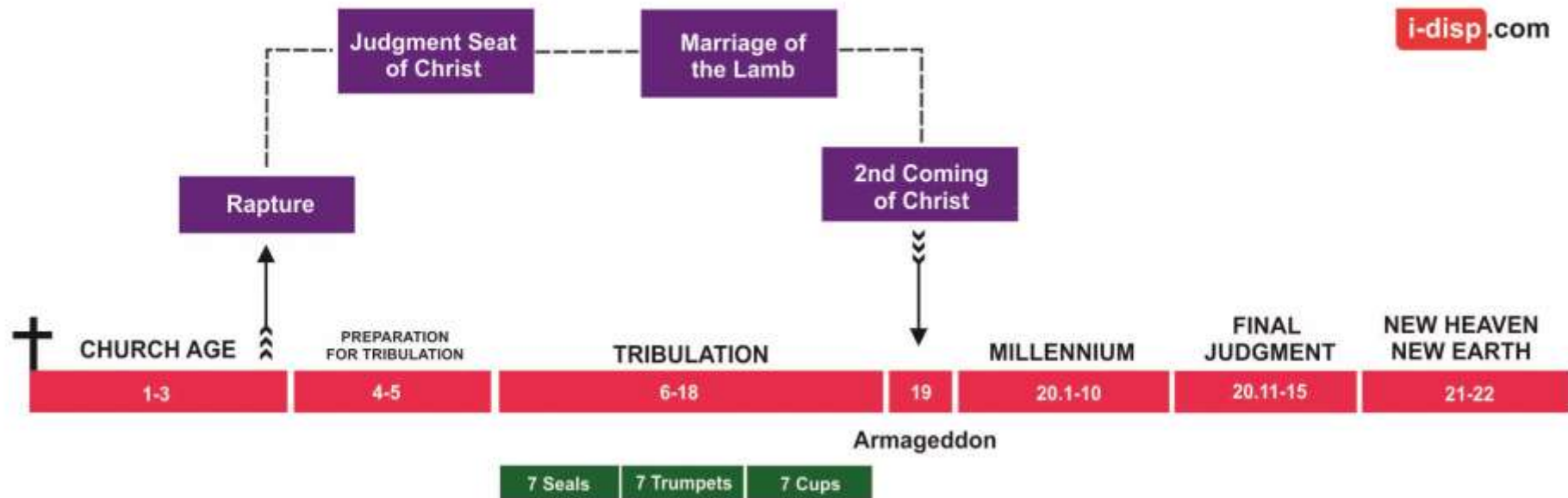
- Superficial judgment is wrong. Passing judgment on someone based solely on appearances is sinful (John 7:24). It is

# Romans 14:10

- <http://i-disp.com/book-of-revelation/>

iD

## BOOK OF REVELATION



# Romans 14:17, Boredom, [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

- **Question: "Is the Christian life supposed to be boring?"**

**Answer:** There are many misconceptions about the Christian life, and one is that it is boring. The truth is the Christian life is where we find true joy and lasting peace, hope and contentment. These things, like all good and perfect things, come from God (James 1:17). The difficulty is that, if you're not a believer in Christ, you truly don't know what you're missing.

This is not to say that the Christian life is easy. One writer describes growing in the Christian faith as being "on a never-ending downward escalator. In order to grow we have to turn around and sprint up the escalator putting up with perturbed looks from everyone else who is gradually moving downward." Christ never deluded anyone into thinking it would be easy to follow Him (see Matthew 10:34-39). It's not easy, but the hardships help prevent boredom.

Those who believe the Christian life is boring have never taken God's invitation to "taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8). Instead, they selfishly pursue whatever they think will make them "not bored" or happy or content. The problem is, the things of this world are temporary and can never truly satisfy. The Bible tells us that sowing to please our sinful nature will surely lead to destruction (Galatians 6:8). King Solomon, the wisest and richest person who ever lived, had everything a person could possibly want. He said, "I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure" (Ecclesiastes 2:10). Solomon had it all, but he concluded that it was "meaningless" and likened it to "chasing after the wind" (v. 11). In other words, he had everything this world had to offer, and he was bored.

Sometimes, a new Christian is surprised that his new life is not "more exciting," as if the Christian life is supposed to be a thrill-a-minute extravaganza. No life is that. Boredom is something we must all overcome. Everyone stands in line at the grocery store, gets caught in traffic, or is given jobs he'd rather not do.

Part of the problem may be how "boredom" is defined. Is it a lack of excitement? Nothing can stimulate perpetual exhilaration. Is it inactivity? If so, then the key is to find something to do. Is it uninterest? If so, the key is to be more curious. Is it a lack of "fun"? In that case, "fun" needs to be defined, since "fun" is itself a highly subjective concept.

Some people assume that being a Christian is boring because they've heard that Christians have to give up all the "fun" things in life. It's true that Christians give up some things, but it's not the fun. Christians give up their sin, their self-destructive behavior, their addictions, their negative attitudes and their ignorance of God. In return, they receive "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). They "live as children of light" in a dark world (Ephesians 5:8). The mistakes of their past no longer have a stronghold in their lives. They no longer live for themselves but for the One who died for them. They serve others and make a difference (Romans 14:7; Philippians 2:4). They are becoming everything that God created them to be. It is virtually impossible to be bored in such a life.

The only thing in this world that has eternal value is a relationship with Jesus Christ. A growing, committed Christian will find that life is never boring. There's always another step of faith to take, another relationship to build, another person to serve.

Is the Christian life supposed to be "boring"? Absolutely not. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

**Recommended Resources:** [Boring: Finding an Extraordinary God in an Ordinary Life by Michael Kelley](#) and [Logos Bible Software](#). [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

# Romans 14:21, "What does it mean that we are not to cause others to stumble?"

- **Question:** "What does it mean that we are not to cause others to stumble?"

**Answer:** The concept of not causing others to stumble is found in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8. In these chapters, Paul talks about personal convictions and our responsibility to our fellow believers in Christ. He highlights several topics over which believers have disagreements—food, drink, and sacred days. In Paul's time, the disagreements were mostly concerning Jewish law versus the new freedom found in Christ. We experience much the same type of disagreements today, even over the same topics, to which we could add things like body piercings, tattoos, clothing style, movies, video games, books, and alcohol/tobacco. These are all areas for which the Bible does not provide specific instruction and yet are areas in which many feel conviction. Some of these things can lead to worldliness, sin, impurity or even just become an obsession/idol. But, on the flip side, legalism and avoidance of anything the world has to offer can also become an idol.

Paul tells the Romans, "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way . . . So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin" (Romans 14:12-13, 22-23). Paul is telling us to enjoy our freedom in Christ, but along with that freedom comes the responsibility to protect those around us who have doubts about that freedom.

The example of alcohol is relevant here. Alcohol is not inherently evil, and the biblical prohibitions are not against drinking but against drunkenness. But someone who tends toward alcoholism very often knows he must not drink at all and believes others shouldn't drink, either, even in moderation. If a Christian has a friend who is convinced drinking is wrong, then drinking around that person may cause him/her to "stumble" or trip up. The Greek word for "stumble" gives the sense of stubbing one's toe. As Christians, we are forbidden to do anything that may cause our brothers and sisters in Christ to stub their toe, spiritually speaking. Stubbing the toe can cause a person to fall in the spiritual sense, or to damage or weaken his faith. In all things, the important lesson is to "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19). In this way, God is glorified, believers are edified, and the world sees in us "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

**Recommended Resources:** [The Keys to Spiritual Growth by John MacArthur](#) and [Logos Bible Software](#).

# Romans 14:23,

## How can I know if something is a sin?

- GotQuestions.org is tremendously excited to announce the release of our second book - [Questions about God - The 100 Most Frequently Asked Questions About God!](#)

For more information on our books, please go to [Got Books?](#)

- **Question: "How can I know if something is a sin?"**

**Answer:** There are two issues involved in this question, the things that the Bible specifically mentions and declares to be sin and those the Bible does not directly address. Scriptural lists of various sins include Proverbs 6:16-19, Galatians 5:19-21, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. There can be no doubt that these passages present the activities as sinful, things God does not approve of. Murder, adultery, lying, stealing, etc.—there is no doubt the Bible presents such things as sin. The more difficult issue is in determining what is sinful in areas that the Bible does not directly address. When the Bible does not cover a certain subject, we have some general principles in His Word to guide us.

First, when there is no specific scriptural reference, it is good to ask not whether a certain thing is wrong, but, rather, if it is definitely good. The Bible says, for example, that we are to “make the most of every opportunity” (Colossians 4:5). Our few days here on earth are so short and precious in relation to eternity that we ought never to waste time on selfish things, but to use it only on “what is helpful for building others up according to their needs” (Ephesians 4:29).

A good test is to determine whether we can honestly, in good conscience, ask God to bless and use the particular activity for His own good purposes. “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). If there is room for doubt as to whether it pleases God, then it is best to give it up. “Everything that does not come from faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). We need to remember that our bodies, as well as our souls, have been redeemed and belong to God. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This great truth should have a real bearing on what we do and where we go.

In addition, we must evaluate our actions not only in relation to God, but also in relation to their effect on our family, our friends, and other people in general. Even if a particular thing may not hurt us personally, if it harmfully influences or affects someone else, it is a sin. “It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall....We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves” (Romans 14:21; 15:1).

Finally, remember that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, and nothing else can be allowed to take priority over our conformity to His will. No habit or recreation or ambition can be allowed to have undue control over our lives; only Christ has that authority. “Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12). “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

**Recommended Resource:** [Making Sense of Man and Sin by Wayne Grudem.](#)

# Romans 14:23, Deeds In The Flesh = Filthy Garments

- Today is May 9, 2013
- Verse of the Day -- John 15:5 . . . *apart from Me you can do nothing.*
- THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
- Why waste your effort?
- MINI BIBLE STUDY FOR THE DAY
- Human effort has no value to God whatsoever unless it is done for and through His Son, Jesus Christ. That's why our heart motives are so critical.
- *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* — 1 Samuel 16:7 We can do things that appear to be great, in our own strength, and they will count for nothing. On the other hand, we can do even the smallest thing, unnoticed by others, out of love for Him, and it will count for eternity.. . . *And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.* — Isaiah 64:6 *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.* — John 15:4
- What an incredible invitation we have every minute of every day—to abide in Christ Himself and to take part in the eternal work that He is doing!

# BIBLE IN FIVE

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*God bless you as you examine His Word,  
Your servant in Christ, 2Cor. 4:5*

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*Matthew 10:8 ...Freely you received, freely give.*

