

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 17

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Two weeks ago, in Romans 14 we were looking at Paul teaching on believers with different convictions. The two differences which he used were food and days. So were convicted about what foods they could and could not eat and others were convicted about certain days being holier than others. These convictions had nothing to do with salvation, but they were just differences in the way people believed they should live their lives in Christ. In this text Paul informed his readers that we are to receive those with different convictions.

Notice Romans 14:1

The person who does not fully grasp their liberty in Christ is to be received but not for the purpose of bringing them into the fellowship in order to be critical of their convictions.

The last time we were together we looked at a very important question put forth by Paul.

Notice Romans 14:10

The idea in this verse is that we are not to judge our fellow believers because that is usurping the authority of God. He is the judge and there is coming a day when we shall all stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be the judgment of we who are BELIEVERS. There will not be unsaved people there. The unsaved will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment as described in Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

At the Great White Throne Judgment all the UNSAVED will be judged for their sin. But at the Judgment Seat of Christ we who are believers will be judged for our SERVICE and NOT for our sins. Our sins were all judged on the cross in Christ when He died for us.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

EVERYONE of our sins (past, present, and future) were JUDGED and PAID FOR in Christ and they will never again be brought up. This is promised in the New Covenant.

Hebrews 10:16-18

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

So, at the Judgment Seat of Christ we believers will be judged for service.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ **If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.**

¹⁵ **If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

We can lose rewards at the judgment, but we will never lose our salvation. When the sinner comes to Jesus Christ for salvation, he or she can claim the Words of Jesus Christ in John 19.

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Jesus tells us "IT IS DONE". When we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, we hope to hear the Words of Jesus in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:23

²³ His lord said unto him, **Well done**, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Jesus already said, "IT IS DONE" so, we now hope to hear the Words, "WELL DONE"!

Now let us get back to Romans 14.

Notice Romans 14:11-12

Paul now quotes from the Isaiah.

Isaiah 45:23

²³ 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.**

We normally think of this verse applying to unbelievers but in Romans 14 Paul also applies it to all believers as well. He reminds us that we shall all bow before the Lord as we are brought to the Judgment Seat of Christ. He then uses this thought to make a point.

Notice Romans 14:13

There are several thoughts here in this verse.

1. **We are not to judge others, but we are to judge ourselves.**

I am to be judging my own life and you are to be judging your own life because each of us as individuals will give an account before the Lord.

2. **As we judge ourselves, we are to be sure that we do not use our liberty in Christ to cause another believer to stumble.**

I want to show you a text from 1 Corinthians in which Paul is addressing the subject of our liberty in Christ. There were those in Corinth that were saved who then refused to eat any meat offered to idols because they knew what took place in the worship of the idols. Paul know that an idol was nothing and that eating meat offered to idols was withing the liberty of the believer in Christ. But he also gave a warning to the believers at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

⁷ *Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.*

⁸ *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.*

⁹ *But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

¹⁰ *For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;*

¹¹ *And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

¹² *But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Paul had the liberty to eat any food but if it offended a brother with a weak conscience, he would not eat meat the rest of his life.

Application:

Let me bring this thought into our lives for a moment. In Christ I have liberty and I can eat any food and I understand that every day is holy, not just one day. But there may be someone that watches me that does not understand their liberty in Christ. They may see working on Sunday as a sin, while I understand that Sunday is just as holy as Monday and there is no command in the Bible that tells me I cannot work in my yard or anywhere else on Sunday. But because it may cause them to stumble and to violate their conscience, I will not do certain things on Sundays if I do not need to. If they see me working on Sunday and it causes them to go against their conscience, then I have sinned by leading them to do so.

Notice Romans 14:14-16

All food is clean, and all food can be eaten but to the believer who sees something as unclean then to him it is unclean. In other words, if he is led to eat that which he sees as unclean that is sin to him because he would be violating his conscience.

So, if I know my brother is weak and he sees certain foods or days differently than I do and I still proceed to exercise my liberty then I am not walking in love. Love edifies or builds others up.

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

Notice Romans 14:15 again.

The word "DESTROY" here is very important. It has a very strong meaning. It is most often used to describe the eternal destruction of unbelievers. But we know that is not the idea here for I is impossible for a believer to experience eternal destruction.

John 10:27-29

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

The words, "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH", literally mean, "FOREVER THEY WILL NEVER PERISH" or "THEY SHALL NEVER, EVER PERISH, NO NOT EVER".

So, we know that a believer can never perish. Then what does Paul mean in Romans 14:15 when he says, "Destroy not him with thy meat"?

The idea is that if we exercise our liberty and cause the weaker brother to violate his conscience then we are guilty of ruining their walk. We are guilty of leading them down a path of sin.

Notice Romans 14:16-17

The "Kingdom of God" is a reference to the spiritual Kingdom of God in which God reigns in all believer's hearts. The Kingdom is not about what we take in it is about the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces from within us. It is interesting here that Paul mentions righteousness, peace, and joy. This is what is to be seen in our lives. These are the very three fruits that will characterize the earthly Kingdom. The Earthly Kingdom will be a Kingdom of Righteousness, Peace and Joy. We long for these in our world today but they will not come into the world until the Righteous One rules on this earth in His Kingdom. But the Holy Spirit can bring forth Kingdom characteristics within us while we walk this earth as we are surrendered over to Him.

Conclusion:

Righteousness, Peace and Joy are fruits of the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:9

⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Galatians 5:22

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

When we are controlled by the Spirit we will edify our brothers and sisters in Christ and by doing so we will bring glory to God.