

Romans

Schedule of Classes

Lesson	Date	Romans Text
1	8/2/2020	1:1-17
2	8/5/2020	1:1-2:29
3	8/9/2020	3:1-31
4	8/12/2020	4:1-5:11
5	8/16/2020	5:12-6:23
6	8/19/2020	7:1-25
7	8/23/2020	8:1-32
8	8/26/2020	9:1-33
9	8/30/2020	10:1-11:36
10	9/6/2020	12:1-21
11	9/9/2020	13:1-14
12	9/13/2020	14:1-23
13	9/16/2020	15:1-16:27

Questions adapted from Larry Brown's study of Romans, part 1 & 2. Full copy of his material is available here: http://embryhills.us/adult_class_material/romans/romans_part_1_and_2_larry_brown.pdf

Lesson 12: Differences Among Brethren

Romans 14

We now come to a portion of scripture which was designed to effect peace. We are indeed blessed to have this passage available to us so that we might know how we are to treat one another when things arise that we disagree with (not matters of truth and error, and of right and wrong but matters of opinion, of conscience, and even of deep personal persuasion.). While this passage has brought peace in these circumstances, it has also become a battleground for questions and applications over what should be included. Most would agree that some brethren are too generous in what they would include, and others are too strict and overly zealous based on what they would exclude from this passage.

Let us keep in mind the general context of what Paul is saying. The law of love has been the primary emphasis in chapters 12 and 13. Romans 14 gives us practical applications of this lofty principle. Paul addresses the strong in their duties to their weak brethren. A problem comes up because most brethren consider themselves strong when it come to their own understanding of a disputed issue. Anyone who holds a different view then must be weak – in their estimation. But even when this happens, if those who consider themselves to be strong will do what Paul demands, they will do well. As Christians, we are to be deeply concerned about the welfare (both physically but especially spiritually) of others. Paul has stated over and over that those who are righteous (justified by grace and faith) are obedient to God. Therefore it is imperative to live according to the commandments of God. However, in matters that are authorized and right, but optional and not demanded, there must be allowances given to one another.

The weak are to be received and not ridiculed, laughed at, or despised. Given time, teaching, and love, the weak may one day be conscientiously able to eat meat. The weak are not to condemn those who could conscientiously eat meat or observe certain days. Both weak and strong are the servants of God and God will judge each (1-4). Both strong and weak are to recognize that they are servants of God. We are to live for God, not self, and whatever we do, we must do with a clear conscience (5-9). Neither the strong or the weak should hold the other in contempt. The judging (in verse 10) must be confined to the things in this context because we must judge in other matters (Matt 7:15; John 7:24; 1 Cor 6:5). We must all be aware that we will all give account of ourselves to God, and be careful not to cause someone else to stumble (10-18). Our goal here is to be diligent in making for peace and doing things which edify our brethren.

QUESTIONS:

1. How are the strong and weak brethren to teach each other?
2. What is important according to verse 5?
3. How far should we be willing to go, to avoid causing a brother to stumble?
4. If we violate our conscience, are we guilty of sin?
5. Is our conscience a safe guide?
6. List some things that you would consider to fall into Romans 14. List some things that you would not.
7. How can we cause a brother to stumble?
8. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?