

Romans 14, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Holy Days?

Romans 14:5

The Jews were obligated to keep at least five holy days: Passover, Pentecost, Yom Kippur, Tabernacles and Purim. But these requirements were fulfilled in Christ (Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 8:13), for they were only a foreshadow of better things to come (Heb. 10:1). Yet some Jewish Christians in Paul's day and even today still observe these Old Testament festivals. Similarly, American Christians today celebrate their own holidays: Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Concerning such things the apostle writes, "One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind" (Rom. 14:5). In other words, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Read John 4:20-24

☐ Tuesday - To Live is Christ.

Romans 14:7-8

Christian, you are not your own. No, you belong to God, for you have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20). But how does this fact affect the way that you live? "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:7-8). This is the Christian life boiled down into its purest form: "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). Read 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20

☐ Wednesday - Should Christians Judge Others?

Romans 14:13

Here the apostle Paul declares, "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore" (Rom. 14:13). But does that mean the Christian is not to make sound judgments about anything? No! Elsewhere, Paul writes to the church in Corinth that "he who is spiritual judges all things" (1 Cor. 2:15), and that Paul himself had "already judged" an immoral person in that church (1 Cor. 5:1-5). Concerning the Christian's judgments, the Scriptures declare: [1] The Christian is to judge everything using God's Word (1 Cor. 2:14-16; Heb. 4:12); [2] He starts by first and foremost judging himself (Mt. 7:1-5); in judging others [3] he is never to judge another person's motives, because he can't see them (1 Cor. 4:5); and [4] he is never to judge the personal opinions of others in nonessential areas (Rom. 14). Read 1 Peter 4:7

☐ Thursday - Major in the Majors, Minor in the Minors.

Romans 14:17

The Christians in the church in Rome were divided over nonessential issues concerning what one should eat or drink, to which the apostle responded, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). There is a little pharisee that lives inside of each one of us that wants to focus on nonessential issues and ignore weightier matters (Mt. 23:23-24). How are you doing in the areas of personal righteousness, peace and joy? Read Galatians 5:22-23

☐ Friday - General Principles for Every Situation.

Romans 14:23

The Bible is very clear about everything that is essential in the Christian life (2 Pet. 1:3), but is silent about a great many nonessential issues. So then, what should the Christian do when he or she has a sincere question about something which the Bible does not directly address? For such questions the Lord has given in His Word several overarching principles to guide His people: [1] "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt. 6:33); [2] "This is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3); [3] "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31); and, here in Romans 14, [4] "Whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). With these general Scriptural principles and many others like them, every true child of God can choose the right thing to do in every situation. Read Rom. 14:19; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 3:1-2; 1 John 2:15