

The Epistle of Paul to the **ROMANS**

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

**** A study in Doctrine****

**** A study in Practice****

Background : This letter , inspired by the Holy Spirit, was written by the Apostle Paul to the "saints" at Rome around 56-58 A.D. , while Paul was in Corinth on his 3rd missionary journey.

Purpose: This letter is written to instruct believers in 3 general area's:

1. The fundamental doctrines of salvation to strengthen against false doctrine.
2. God's faithfulness in His relationship and dealings with Israel.
3. Practical Christian living in relation to society and government.

About Paul : Background : Philippians 3:4-6 (a Pharisee)

Salvation experience - Acts 9:1-22 (Saul=Paul)

Ministry training - Acts 22:1-4 ; 2 Corinthians 12:1-8 ; Galatians 1:15-19

Qualification for apostleship - called by Christ - Acts 9:3-6

Chapter 14 : The Kingdom of God is Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost. v17

I. Freedom in the Spirit. vv 1-6

- A. The believer who is mature in his faith understands Christian liberty.
1. He understands that there is nothing intrinsically sinful about the substance. (Type of food, wine, observance of days). 1Cor 8,9.
 2. He understands that what is sinful is the motivation and desire for the use of these substances for selfish indulgence or worship of any other but God. 14:23
 3. He understands that he is free from bondage to the law which will not grant him a righteous standing before God. Gal 4:30,31. 5:1-15
 4. He should use his liberty to strengthen the body of Christ, and direct the lost toward the Savior. Bear the burden if necessary. 1 Cor 6:7,8
- B. The believer who is weak in his faith may be afraid of the entrapment of these things, not understanding fully the fact that Christ has fulfilled all the law for us, and our righteous standing before God is in Christ, not in our ability to keep the law.
1. According to his conscience he is keeping away from ungodly things.
 2. The problem is that he may be inclined to judge those who do partake of things that , in themselves, are not sinful. James 4:11,12.
- C. God receives both of these believers based on their faith and trust in Christ, not based on their performance. 1 Peter 1:3-5
- D. Both these believers give thanks for what they eat , and regard the observance of a particular day as unto the Lord.
- E. Since God has accepted them, shouldn't we accept each other?
(We do not have a higher standard than God does)

II. We belong to the Lord. vv 7-8

- v7 A. No one lives or dies to himself. His life and actions have a "ripple effect" on everyone in his circle of influence, for good or for evil.
- B. The "ripple effect" should be a positive influence always directing people toward the kingdom of God. Col 3:17
- v8 C. Because we belong to the Lord, we are His ambassadors. We need to represent Him well, whether in life or in death. 2 Cor 5:17-21
"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil 1:20,21

III. Christ is Lord over all. vv 9-23

- v9 A. He is Lord of all and alone has the authority to judge His servants.
- v10 B. When we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10), we will understand that we will each have personal accountability to Christ directly. Even now each believer is accountable to Christ only.
- v13 C. Do not put a stumbling block in the way of one who is loved by Christ.
- v14 D. If we consider something to be unclean, it is between us and the Lord.
"When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth." Deut 23:21-23
- v15 E. Do not impose a personal conviction on your brother in Christ. Personal convictions must come from the heart of each believer as he is seeking closer fellowship with God.
- v17 F. The kingdom of God is not focused on food, but on:
 - 1. Righteousness.
 - 2. Peace. Meekness, humility, self denial, love.
 - 3. Joy - in the Holy Ghost
 - 4. When we serve Christ having these three characteristics present in our lives, then are we accepted by God, and approved by men. We can accomplish much more through these, than by imposing righteousness on others.
- G. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.
 - 1. If we try to keep part of the law, we become debtors to do all the law. Gal 5:3; James 2:10
 - 2. James 1:8 tells us - *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*
 - 3. We need to develop biblical convictions about attitudes, activities, and lifestyle choices.
 - 4. Don't wait for the challenge to take us by surprise, but develop convictions early in our walk with the Lord. Daniel 1:8
 - 5. Once convictions are established, stick with them unless the Lord shows otherwise, but do not impose your personal convictions on other believers.