

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 13, 2014

Passage: Romans 14:1-12

Memory Passage: Romans 14:3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 14:1-12.** To whom does “the one who is weak in faith” refer, what kind of “faith” is Paul speaking of, and what is “weak” about it?
- (b) Who are the strong (the opposite of the weak, although not referred to as strong until 15:1) and why are they the ones Paul admonishes to “welcome” those who are weak in faith?
- (c) Why does the weak person eat only vegetables and why would they be tempted to “pass judgment” on those who do?
- (d) Why does the strong person “believe he may eat anything” and why would they be tempted to “despise” those who don’t?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 14:1-12.** Explain how “God has welcomed him” and why this is the basis for Paul’s command in vs. 1-3.
- (b) According to v. 4, why are we not to pass judgment on other believers, and why is this fact enough to cause us to obey?
- (c) When will the strong “be upheld” and what has the Lord done to “make him stand” (v. 4)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 14:1-12, Gal. 4:8-11, Col. 2:16-17, & Heb. 3:7-4:13.** “Day” (vs. 5-6) refers to the Sabbath. As you read these 4 passages write down what you learn about the way a New Covenant believer should understand and obey the 4th Commandment.
- (b) According to Romans 14:6, what 2 motivations should guide your actions, whether you are strong or weak in your faith?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 14:1-12.** Explain vs. 9-11 and how they support Paul’s commandments in this section.
- (b) Paul returns in vs. 10-12 to the theme of judgment: it is not for us to judge others because God is our Judge. What does Paul mean when he says we will “all stand before the judgment seat of God” and “give an account” of ourselves and what does the quote from Is. 45:23 (see also Phil. 2:10-11) have to do with this day (don’t forget about verse 4 as you answer)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 14:1-12.** I have saved all the application for today, thinking it better to study the entire passage before contemplating application. In this passage, the weaker brothers/sisters are those who have not fully understood the freedom the gospel has brought into their life to enjoy blessings from God with thanksgiving and honoring Him. The stronger brothers/sisters are those who have recognized these freedoms. Each are tempted to sin against the other, and Paul tells us that in the areas of the Jewish dietary laws and Sabbath laws both applications are allowed (i.e. abstain or not abstain, observe or not observe). We may not have disputes over interpretation of Jewish dietary laws, but there are many other activities with which we must recon and apply these same commands.
- (b) Write on a separate piece of paper the following list of activities that can be divisive among believers (the list could be much longer but I limited it to 10 things): Sabbath-keeping, Bible translations, worship styles/types of music in worship, how to school children, watching non-G rated movies/theater, owning/watching TV, drinking alcohol, listening to secular music, borrowing money, reading *Harry Potter* (or the next controversial work of literature that comes along). For each one answer/apply the following: (1) Expand the list to include any other activities/beliefs of which you are aware, or delete any that you think do not fall into this category and write down your reasoning. (2) How do you decide what activities belong on this list? (3) Identify whether you are a strong or weak believer (you may be strong in one area and weak in another). (4) Identify ways in which you are tempted to judge or despise others. (5) In what ways have you experienced judgment or despising from others? (6) Write down ways you will specifically apply Paul’s teaching in Romans 12:1-14 to each area.

DATE: April 13, 2014

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No Judging!

In Romans 14:1-12 Paul provides 4 reasons why believers should not stand in judgment of other believers.