

# Weak in Faith

*Romans 14:1-15:13*

*Puritan Reformed Church - Pastor David Reece*

*Lord's Day October 30th, Anno Domini 2022*

**Scripture Reading - 1 John**

**Acceptable Sacrifice of Praise - Psalm 1 & 2**

## REVIEW OF ROMANS

- 1) **1:1-15 - Apostleship - Authority (Sola Scriptura) and Mission (the Great Commission and the Doxological focus)**

**1:16-17 - Thesis** - "16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

- 2) **Chapters 1-3 - The Righteousness of God in Himself & The Righteousness of God revealed in the law<sup>1</sup>**
- 3) **Chapters 3-5 - The Righteousness of God imputed to the believer**
- 4) **Chapters 6-8 - The Righteousness of God imparted in sanctification**
- 5) **Chapter 9 - The Righteousness of God in His plan of the Predestination of all things for His ends by His means at His initiation.**
- 6) **Chapters 10-11 - The Righteousness of God in His treatment both of Israel and of the Nations.**
- 7) **Chapters 12-16 - The Righteousness of God on display in rational service by the saints.**

**12:1-2 - Hinge Thesis** - I beseech [exhort] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable [rationall] service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Root sin is the sin of unbelief. Not seeking and therefore not understanding. Neglecting, Avoiding, Resisting, and Denying the knowledge of God. Root sin results in an increasing sense of meaninglessness which leads to an increase of fruit sins through boredom increasing guilt and the lust for excess as we seek to amuse ourselves into oblivion.

## TEXT - ROMANS 14:1-15:13

14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. 4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

- 1) V. 1 - **Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.**
  - a) Weak in the faith
    - i) One who is weak in what is actually taught in the revealed Word of God
    - ii) The Faith, the Objective Faith
  - b) Receive - into the church, into affection, into fellowship
  - c) Doubtful things - do not seek to make other people have a burden of conscience when you are not certain, cannot prove, the doctrine/commandment that you hold for yourself
  - d) Disputes - disputation is good when showing what can be proven from the word of God by explicit statement or necessary inference, but not when it is over things that are not provable.
    - i) Proof - Literal (according to the type of literature), Grammatical (according to the rules of grammar), Contextual (Looking at the context of the whole of Scripture, the particular book of Scripture, and the sentence), Logical (in a way that coheres with the rest of Scripture as the system of truth)
- 2) V. 2 - **For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.**
  - a) One believes that ...
  - b) May Eat all things
  - c) Eats only vegetables
    - i) Genesis 1-2 - Adam given the right to eat herbs and rule animals
    - ii) Genesis 3, 4 - animal sacrifice
    - iii) Genesis 7 - Noah receives 2 of each kind of animal, and 7 of each clean animals
    - iv) Genesis 8-9 - Noah and the right to eat animals

- v) Leviticus & Deuteronomy - Cleanness laws about Food
- vi) Daniel 1:8-17 - Daniel and His friends only eat vegetables
- vii) Acts 10:9-16, 11:1-18 - Peter eats things forbidden in the mosaic Cov.
- viii) Acts 15:28-29 - the four cannon laws of the council - (same as the laws of Lev 17-19)
- ix) 1 Cor. 8-10 - eating, rights, and limits
- x) Gal 2:11-14
- xi) Hebrews - change of the covenant from old admin to new admin
- xii) Revelation 2:14, 2:20 - food dedicated to idols

3) **V. 3 - Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.**

- a) Does this make sense if we are talking about a thing that God has actually forbidden?
- b) This text only makes sense if we are talking about a thing that God has actually authorized.
- c) The one who is strong is actually believing what has been revealed.
- d) The one who is weak is failing to believe some of the explicit statements or necessary inferences of what has been revealed.

4) **V. 4 - Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.**

- a) We are not permitted to judge except by the standard that God has given, so that our judgment is not the judgment.
- b) The church is called to apply the standard of God's Word so that the judgment of the church is the judgment of the master and we can say like Matthew 18 that Christ is with us in the judgment.
- c) Conflict has to be chosen carefully - from the more basic to the less basic or at the point where conflict already occurs (in which case the question is are we ready to deal with that matter by itself or do we need to find a more basic point to resolve first).
- d) More basic to less basic:
  - i) Epistemology
    - (1) How do you know?
      - (a) Irrationalism
      - (b) Rationalism
      - (c) Empiricism
      - (d) Presuppositionalism
    - (2) Hermeneutics

- (a) Logical
- (b) Literal
- (c) Grammatical
- (d) Contextual
- ii) Metaphysics
- iii) Ethics
  - (1) The Law
    - (a) Moral
    - (b) Cerimonial
    - (c) Civil

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died [b]and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of [c]Christ. 11 For it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord,  
Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God.”

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore [any longer], but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in

these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify [build up] another. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. 21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. 22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

**\*\* Look for a foot not in your Bible - MT vs CT - 16:25-27 in CT\*\***

25 [g]Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

**\*\* Return to Printed Order \*\***

15:1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples [weaknesses] of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification [building up]. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience [perseverance] and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us [MT - you], to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant [minister, deacon] to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:

“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles,  
And sing to Your name.”

**10 And again he says:**

**“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”**

**11 And again:**

**“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!  
Laud Him, all you peoples!”**

**12 And again, Isaiah says:**

**“There shall be a root of Jesse;  
And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles,  
In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”**

**13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **DOCTRINE**

Q107: Which is the second commandment?

A107: The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. [1]

[1] Exod. 20:4-6

Q108: What are the duties required in the second commandment?

A108: The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his word;[1] particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ;[2]

the reading, preaching, and hearing of the word;[3] the administration and receiving of the sacraments;[4] church government and discipline;[5] the ministry and maintenance thereof;[6] religious fasting;[7] swearing by the name of God,[8] and vowing unto him:[9] as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship;[10] and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.[11]

[1] Deut. 32:46-47; Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42; I Tim. 6:13-14 [2] Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:20 [3] Deut. 17:18-19; Acts 15:21; II Tim. 4:2; James 1:21-22 [4] Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 11:23-30 [5] Matt. 16:19; 18:15-17; I Cor. ch. 5; 12:28 [6] Eph. 4:11-12; I Tim. 5:17-18; I Cor. 9:1-15 [7] Joel 2:12-13; I Cor. 7:5 [8] Deut. 6:13 [9] Isa. 19:21; Psa. 76:11 [10] Acts 17:16-17; Psa. 16:4 [11] Deut. 7:5; Isa. 30:22

Q109: What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?

A109: The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising,[1] counseling,[2] commanding,[3] using,[4] and anywise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself;[5] tolerating a false religion;[6] the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever;[7] all worshiping of it,[8] or God in it or by it;[9] the making of any representation of feigned deities,[10] and all worship of them, or service belonging to them;[11] all superstitious devices,[12] corrupting the worship of God,[13] adding to it, or taking from it,[14] whether invented and taken up of ourselves,[15] or received by tradition from others,[16] though under the title of antiquity,[17] custom,[18] devotion,[19] good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever;[20] simony;[21] sacrilege;[22] all neglect,[23] contempt,[24] hindering,[25] and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.[26]

[1] Num. 15:39 [2] Deut. 13:6-8 [3] Hosea 5:11; Micah 6:16 [4] I Kings 11:33; 12:33 [5] Deut. 12:30-32 [6] Deut. 13:6-12; Zech. 13:2-3; Rev. 2:2, 14-15, 20, Rev. 17:12, 16-17 [7] Deut. 4:15-19; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:21-23, 25 [8] Dan. 3:18; Gal. 4:8 [9] Exod. 32:5 [10] Exod. 32:8 [11] I Kings 18:26, 28; Isa. 65:11 [12] Acts 17:22; Col. 2:21-23 [13] Mal. 1:7-8, 14 [14] Deut. 4:2 [15] Psa. 106:39 [16] Matt. 15:9 [17] I Peter 1:18 [18] Jer. 44:17 [19] Isa. 65:3-5; Gal. 1:13-14 [20] I Sam. 13:11-12; 15:21 [21] Acts 8:18 [22] Rom. 2:22; Mal. 3:8 [23] Exod. 4:24-26 [24] Matt. 22:5; Mal. 1:7, 13 [25] Matt. 23:13 [26] Acts 13:44-45; I Thess. 2:15-16

Q110: What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it?

A110: The reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it, contained in these words, For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments;[1] are, besides God's sovereignty over us, and propriety in us,[2] his fervent zeal for his own worship,[3] and his revengeful indignation against all false worship, as being a spiritual whoredom;[4] accounting the breakers of this commandment such as hate him, and threatening to punish them unto divers generations;[5] and esteeming the observers of it such as love him and keep his commandments, and promising mercy to them unto many generations.[6]

[1] Exod. 20:5-6 [2] Psa. 45:11; Rev. 20:3-4 [3] Exod. 34:13-14 [4] I Cor. 10:20-22; Jer. 7:18-20; Ezek. 16:26-27; Deut. 32:16-20 [5] Hosea 2:2-4 6. Deut. 5:29