

*Hymns 247, 308, 455, 468, 521, 591, 653*

Sunday Evening 6/25/2023

“Living like the King”

Romans 14:14-23 & 15:1-3

*I. You know the truth -*

<sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is nothing unclean of itself*; Romans 14:14 A (NKJV)

*Again, here Paul is talking about meat offered to idols, it is not “unclean” we may eat it.*

*II. But you also understand what is loving –*

... but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is unclean*. <sup>15</sup>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. Romans 14:14B & :15

- 1. Your brother would be scandalized if he ate this food, he is bothered by you eating it, because he counts your action sin!*

*You are correct, he is wrong, but if you cannot convince him, do not eat you meat offered to idols in front of him.*

- 2. Paul uses the word “destroy” here in Greek is ἀπόλλυμι to destroy, kill, perish ...*

*III. Food is not THAT important; it is NOT the Kingdom of God –*

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup>for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>For he who serves Christ in these things *is acceptable to God and approved by men*.

- 1. :16 The good here is your freedom to eat ... your brother does not believe you have this freedom*
- 2. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*
- 3. Forgoing your “freedom” in this circumstance is serving Jesus Christ. Not every argument needs to be WON, even when you are CORRECT!*

*IV. Pursue peace, those things that make “peace” -*

<sup>19</sup>Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Do you have faith? Have *it to yourself* before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. <sup>23</sup>But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat from faith*; for whatever *is not from faith is sin*. Romans 14:19-23

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1. *Note this peace is with people, fellow-believers, who think they or you might be SINNING when in fact they / you are NOT SINNING –*

**<sup>14</sup>I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is nothing unclean of itself*; Romans 14:14 A (NKJV)**

- A. *This is not saying we should wink at sin!*
  - B. *It is not saying we should count those who are sinning as if they were NOT!*
2. *This is speaking about too many scruples, too much conscience, not “No conscience or no scruples”*

- V. *Don’t aim to please yourself, please God, please your neighbor, leading to edification -*

**15 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “*The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.*” Romans 15:1–3 (NKJV)**

1. *Bear with their scruples ...*

**15 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Romans 15:1 (NKJV)**

2. *Can scruples become a tyranny?*

*Glenn at Glen Eyrie ... we as a group I believe were trying to bear with his scruples, until Taka Boom came along.*

- A. *Taka Boom was smiling sweet in the way he confronted sugarless, joyless Glenn.*
- B. *Handle with CARE*

*Some people are fragile, Glenn was NOT, Taka Boom saw this!*

*In Matthew 23 Jesus repeatedly says, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”*

*He knew when to speak strongly to someone as well.*

*Arnold A. Brevick*