

Parson to Person
ROMANS 14 PART 3

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 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. 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.

One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 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. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 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. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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 Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.

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. 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. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. 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. 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. Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 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 14:1–23 NKJV).

The Sabbath Day and its observance predates the law of Moses. It is the day in which God Himself rested following six literal days of creation (Genesis 1). From that time forward, God has called men and women to remember, keep, or observe the Sabbath.

The Sabbath Day was a required observance during the Old Covenant Law of Moses. It was a day of rest for the people of Israel, and inasmuch as the Sabbath Day predated Moses, it was a day set apart as a type and shadow of things to come. Therefore, we must come to understand that the Sabbath was and is more than a day of the week. This fact is documented for us several times in Scripture and by multiple illustrative means in Matthew 12:1-14, Mark 2:23-28, Hebrews 3:12–4:11, etc.

In the Law, man was required to rest and set aside the day for reflection on the Lord. However, Paul indicated that now in the Church Age we do not see mankind being required to keep a specific day as set apart, but said, *“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind”* (Romans 14:5 NKJV). This new application and insight has caused some people tremendous confusion.

We know that the Law was crucified with Christ, that it has been abolished and made obsolete, and is presently vanishing away (see Ephesians 2:15–16, Colossians 2:11–17, Hebrews 8:13). However, the type and shadow of the Sabbath is still with us. A Sabbath day itself has great applicational value—when practiced by choice rather than by command. But in addition, a deeper understanding of what the Sabbath is—or shall I say “Who”—is of greater value to all. Jesus is our Sabbath! In Him we find genuine peace and rest.

Concerning the Sabbath, we will consider:

- 1) Matthew 12:1–14 and Mark 2:23–28 related to a proper view of the Sabbath. It was made for the benefit of man.
- 2) Hebrews 3:12–4:11 related to the Sabbath rest God intends for the believer in Jesus.
- 3) Applicational, related to the fact that benefits are manifold, there is value to the soul—a reminder of the person, presence, and creative work of God (when keeping a day of rest); practicality—for creation’s good; and spirituality—as we enter into the rest provided in Jesus.

I Love you all,
Pastor Paul