

Title: What Each Saint Has
Text: Romans 14: 1- 15: 4
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Romans 14: 1: Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations.

We are going to briefly cover this passage down to Romans 15: 5. In this passage, the Spirit of God says there are some things by which we cannot discern God's people: not by what they eat or do not eat, not by their regard for a certain day or by them regarding all days alike. Some weak in faith do one, others strong in faith do the other. But both are in the faith

Proposition: But in this passage, the Spirit of God also gives us things that every true child of God has in common--those things will be our focus.

When we read a passage like this the first thought each of God's saints has is that we are guilty of failing to do what the passage teaches us to do. So none of us can exalt ourselves over another. None of us can imagine that we could come to God by our obedience. But here we find some blessings of grace that each saint has in Christ and by Christ.

GOD HATH RECEIVED US IN CHRIST

Romans 14: 1: Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations. 2: For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3: Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

The Holy Spirit declares here that each of God's saints has God-given faith so that in Christ, God has received him. For each one the Spirit has regenerated and given faith in Christ, whether strong in faith or weak in faith, whether eating all things or only eating certain things--*God hath received him.*

From eternity, God hath received each elect child in Christ for Christ's sake. Each elect child, the Spirit of God gives faith--whether weak faith or strong faith--God hath received each one in the righteousness of Christ alone. Each of God's elect were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, justified by Christ alone and are accepted in the Beloved.

This is why we are not to doubt and dispute with one another. It is not weak faith or strong faith that matters. It is being found in Christ alone through God-given faith. So the strong are not to despise the weak as being a legalist and the weak are not to judge the strong as being licentious. Our righteousness and holiness is not in days and meats and drink. God hath received us in the perfect righteousness and holiness of our dear Savior.

CHRIST IS OUR MASTER

Romans 14: 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Another blessing of grace that each saint has in common is Christ is our Master who shall make us stand.

Each of God's children are kept by God. Christ loved each of God's elect from eternity. He ruled all history for each one personally. Christ came and justified us from our sins by his own blood. Now our sovereign, victorious Savior is seated on his throne above with all power, ruling all things.

He works all things that happen and he personally teaches each of his servants. So we can be sure of our brethren, "*Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*"

What comfort! No matter if a brother is weak in faith or strong in faith. No matter what storm of providence we face. No matter if we stand or fall. *We shall be held up for God is able to make us stand.*

CHRIST IS LORD OVER ALL

Romans 14: 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6: He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7: For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8: For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

These verses speak of Christ's elect in particular who God has given faith in Christ. Whether our faith be weak or strong, for each of God's elect, Christ is our one Lord who keeps each one doing whatever we do in faith unto the Lord.

In the past, a man who bought a large estate was called a lord. He bought the land, the house, the servants, the cattle. It all belonged to him.

Christ died for each of his elect. He arose and each of his elect arose in him. It was for this end: *that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living*. Christ's death was a purchase. He bought the kingdom of God. The Firstborn has bought the house of God. Christ bought each of his people from the curse and condemnation of the law. He conquered death for his people--death has no more sting--Christ has conquered the grave for his people and given us the victory over death. So we are his purchased possession, purchased with his own blood.

So at every point of a believer's life, even when we die--*Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's*.

Who gave the weak believer faith? Christ did. *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind*. He is weak in faith so he still thinks he must regard a day. But Christ gave him faith so that he *does it unto the Lord*.

Who gave the strong believer faith? Christ did. *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind*. The strong believer knows Christ has set him free. He has liberty and regards all days the same. But it is Christ who gave him faith so that he *does it unto the Lord*.

Remember that about your brethren when Christmas comes around or Easter or Sunday. Keep it in mind concerning what a brother eats or does not eat. Whether we regard a day or not, or certain meats, is not salvation. Christ is our Lord. What matters is that our Lord owns us. What matters is that he gives faith, be it weak or strong, so that his child does what we do unto our Lord. Even when we are about to die and can do absolutely nothing, we are the Lord's. Even when our bodies lay in the grave and are lifeless, we are the Lord's. That shows us salvation is not in what we do. Salvation is our Lord.

It is a wretched sin to attempt to rule another man's conscience. It is terribly sinful to judge another man when we do not see his heart, especially when he does what he does unto the Lord. *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind* by the Lord, not by you and not by me. This is what Paul meant when he said,

1 Corinthians 2: 1: And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

CHRIST IS OUR JUDGE AND ADVOCATE

Romans 14: 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall

give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

Our Savior is the Judge and Advocate of each of his saints.

Our Lord Jesus makes his child live looking forward to the day that we shall each, personally, stand before him in judgment. His perfect love has cast out fear of that day. It is because Christ is our Judge, Christ is our Advocate and Christ is our Righteousness.

Judging our brethren puts a stumblingblock before them, the same as exercising our liberty before a weak brother. But my brother does not have to give an account to me. He personally will give account to God and so will I. Christ makes his people remember this. Every one of us, each of us individually and personally, shall give account of himself to God. So rather than trying to be the judge, we each live unto our one Judge!

Peter asked the Lord, "What about John?" Christ said, "What is that to you? Follow THOU me!"

Each of us who are given faith in Christ, knows Christ is our righteousness alone. We see our just Judge has made justice and mercy meet in harmony in Christ on our behalf. So we know our just Judge judges only righteous judgment. So throughout the life of faith, as in that last day, we leave all judgment to him.

Psalm 37: 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

We know Christ is our Advocate with the Father. In that day, he will represent each of us to the Father in his perfection without spot or blame. So we personally want to be found in him alone, having his righteousness alone. So we each, personally, follow him alone! So we judge righteous judgment. How? By trusting all judgment to the righteous Judge. He is the Judge who does all things in perfect righteousness.

CHRIST IS OUR PEACE

Romans 14: 14: I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean. 15: But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16: Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Each of God's saints have this in common, Christ is our Peace. And Christ makes his saints peacemakers.

The child of God who esteems certain meat or drink to be sinful, to him it is! So the strong in the faith is not to exercise his liberty before him. It will make the weak brother fall. It will make him strive. It will make contentions break out and he will call your good liberty, evil.

Worse, God's saints do not want the world looking at us and speaking evil of our good due to strife and division over useless things--*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink: but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

Christ is our Righteousness, our Peace and our Joy. By bringing in his everlasting righteousness for us he is our Righteousness. Doing so, Christ made peace with God for us and he is our Peace. By his Spirit revealing himself in our hearts he is our Joy.

So let us walk by faith in Christ. Let us do what our Savior teaches us here through Paul so that each may have their righteousness, peace and joy in Christ alone, not in any work of our hands, not in what we constrained others to do or not do.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Romans 14: 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. 20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that

man who eateth with offence. 21 *It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.*

CHRIST JUSTIFIED US

Romans 14: 22: Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. **23:** And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.* **5: 1:** We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2:** Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification. **3:** For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. **4:** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Christ justified each elect child for whom he died. All God's saints have this in common. Therefore, by God's grace, we walk by faith not by sight.

"The just shall live by faith." Faith knows and believes all God's elect were justified by Christ alone. Even weak faith believes this. So if Christ has given you faith to know that it is not sin to regard every day the same nor to eat meat or drink, *have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.*

Ecclesiastes 9:7: Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

But remember that the weak in faith, who doubts that he is free to eat or drink or who thinks he must regard a day, is wounded if he eats or drinks, *because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not faith is sin.* So have thy faith and exercise thy liberty by thyself alone.

We all like to think of ourselves as the one who has strong faith. So if we do have strong faith then rather than doubting and disputing, rather than judging and condemning, do for the weak what Christ did for all his people. *"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*

Even when we had no faith, even when we were the ungodly, Christ bore reproaches of the self-righteous for the sake of his elect. The Pharisees reproached him all his days and around the cross has he hung dying for our sins.

But, think on this, Christ even bore the sins of our own sinful reproaches. It should not be, but it is true, that due to our infirmities whether strong in faith or weak in faith, God's saints sometimes say critical, negative things about one another. That is reproach. And it is reproaching God. Is someone reproaching you now? Worse, and what we should think on more than the other, have you reproached someone else? Remember, Christ even bore all those sinful reproaches that come from his own people. He put away all our sins. He says to the Father and to his people, *"The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."*

So if we are truly strong in faith, *we then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.* "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ"

Child of God, remember this about each of God's saints. Whether weak in faith or strong, we have these things in common. God hath received us in Christ for Christ's sake. Christ is our Master who shall make each of his servants stand. We each have one Lord, Christ Jesus, who shall keep his people living unto him. Christ is both our Judge and our Advocate who has made us righteous and shall present us to the Father without spot so judge righteous judgment by trusting our Righteous Judge. Christ is our Peacemaker who reconciled us to God. Therefore his Spirit makes his people peacemakers. We are justified by Christ alone through faith alone therefore walk by faith, not by sight. Judge not after appearance. But rather bear the infirmities of the weak even as Christ bore our sins and put them all away!

Amen!