

Life Group Notes 09/05/2021 Streamed Week 72
Bill Pelletier Romans week 14 Chapter 14

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER: Have you ever been "kept away from church" because of something you saw? How were you drawn back? What have you learned? —The scribe

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Bill Pelletier's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

What has this study of Romans taught you so far? What are some highlights that you still think about?

When Pastor Bill spoke of people staying away from meetings in prison, because of what folks said, or because of folks who were there...what did that make you think? What is the root of division in the church?

Read the first verses of Romans 13: [1](#)Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on his opinions. [2](#)For one person has faith to eat all things, while another, who is weak, eats only vegetables. [3](#)The one who eats everything must not belittle the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted him. [4](#)Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Answer Paul's questions. What is a disputed matter? What differences do people argue over? In this day and at this hour, how important are these differences? What differences MATTER? What makes them matter?

Pastor Bill says, "Scriptures have one meaning, but many applications." Explain what he means. Is there a time to take a stand? Look up Galatians 5:12 [11](#)Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. [12](#)***As for those who are agitating you, I wish they would proceed to emasculate themselves!*** ***Does Paul leave any doubt as to whether or not some things matter? So...what matters? What does it mean to be "weak in the faith, according to Paul? Pastor Bill says, "Sometimes people who are 'weak in the faith' have very STRONG convictions'. Explain.***

Have you ever had a discussion with vegetarians? Or...as a Christian vegetarian? How did that go? How about discussions over holidays: Christmas, Easter, birthdays? How did that go?

Look up Acts 10:9-16 [9](#)The next day at about the sixth hour, as the men were approaching the city on their journey, Peter went up on the roof to pray. [10](#)He became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

[11](#)He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. [12](#)It contained all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, as well as birds of the air. [13](#)Then a voice said to him: "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

[14](#)"No, Lord!" Peter answered. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

[15](#)The voice spoke to him a second time: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

[16](#)This happened three times, and all at once the sheet was taken back up into heaven.

How does Peter respond to the vision? Why? Why three times the same vision? What effect does this vision have on Peter? What barriers are broken? How does he change in his understanding? In his understanding of accepting the "forbidden Gentiles"? Have you ever changed your understanding of something you thought was "very Christian"? Have you changed a negative opinion toward someone else or a group? Did barriers get broken that allowed you to share the gospel? Can you share a testimony?

What wall went down when Peter obeyed and changed his own view? How did Paul benefit from Peter's vision?

What about tattoos? What do you tell the Christian lifer in the penitentiary who is covered with tattoos, when others told him "You cannot be a Christian"? Bill asks, "How do we respond to those hedges we run up against?"

Answer this: Who are you to judge? Where do you think we have license to judge? When is it ok to judge others?

4Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**5**One person regards a certain day above the others, while someone else considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6**He who observes a special day does so to the Lord; he who eats does so to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **Pastor Bill says, "Who died and left you boss?" Why does this fit here so well? What does it make you think?**

He says, "These are just disputable matters. This is not 'the Gospel.'" Explain the difference.

He says, "When we take care of our own freedom, we might be tempting the weaker brother or sister where they are prone to sin." Does this make sense? How does love instruct our behavior? Would it ever be right to draw them into our way of thinking, if where they are is where they need to be?

7For none of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone. **8**If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9**For this reason Christ died and returned to life, that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. **How does this help in terms of judging others? Who is the better judge?**

10Why, then, do you judge your brother? Or why do you belittle your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **Answer this question that he raised: Why do you judge? Why does someone look down on another? He asked, "If I want to enjoy God in His most restrictive interpretation, is that wrong? Answer him. Why, or why not? If I insist that you live like I do, is that Christian? Why or why not?"**

11It is written:

“As surely as I live,
says the Lord,
every knee will bow before Me;
every tongue will confess to God.”

12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. ***How does this help us turn from judging others? In what sense is our neighbor accountable to us? On the other hand, in what sense am I accountable to my neighbor? Who is the servant of whom in Christ's eyes? In my eyes? (Who is the greatest...in the eyes of the Kingdom?) How do I become a hypocrite when I judge another?***

In terms of marriage, Bill says, "You're supposed to love your spouse, and let God change them." How is this a helpful approach?

The Law of Love

[\(Ezekiel 14:1-11; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13\)](#)

13 Therefore let us stop judging one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. ***Bill highlights this verse...In what way can we begin to work on this verse today? Have you put stumbling blocks in another's way? Have you felt like stumbling blocks are being put in your way? How can we pray for one another?***

14 I am convinced and fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. **15** If your brother is distressed by what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother, for whom Christ died.

Bill says, "I don't have a lot of time to worry about what you're thinking...because I have a lot of work to do in mine." ***How does this help? What is the key element here? He continues, "I'm concerned for you in the big things, for sure. But Paul doesn't say, "Don't talk about it." He only says, "Don't argue about it." Why is this a liberating idea?***

He says, "If you want to share why you do what you do, think 'What's the point? What is the intended good?' Don't try to chain another to your ideals." ***Do you agree?***

Have you ever seen another harassed for what they ate for lunch, or what they watched on TV? Have you been harassed like that? What was the result? Is it possible to harass someone away from the church?

If it's not a good idea to enforce our idea on them, what is best?

16 Do not allow what you consider good, then, to be spoken of as evil. **17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** For whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. ***How does this fit? How shall we then serve Christ, in your own words? Does that make it easier to serve Him in the end? Or harder? Paul told the Galatians, "It was for freedom Jesus set us free." How does this fit here? How does it help us understand? Bill***

says, "I learned being right is not the highest good. Loving is the highest good." Do you agree? How does "being right" sometimes interfere with "loving"? What is the remedy?

Look up 1 Cor 13:10 "Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's Law. How does this verse help? Look up 1 Cor 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy and I have all knowledge. If I have faith so as to move mountains, and I have not love, I am nothing. How much does it help me to be right all the time? How important is it to understand this point? How does this address the issues of today?

Bill brings up Jesus' new commandment. What is the result of us loving one another rightly? How important is it that "all men know that we are His disciples" in this day and at this hour? How urgent is this message?

"Your convictions only honor the Lord to the extent that you love one another. We honor God by honoring each other" **What do you think? Look over the practical suggestion Paul makes in the next verses. Notice how practical Paul is in this exhortation:**

19So then, let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification. **20**Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to let his eating be a stumbling block. **21**It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything to cause your brother to stumble.

22Keep your belief about such matters between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. **23**But the one who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that is not from faith is sin. **What is our obligation to one another? Take what time is left to go over this list: Where are you strong? Where have you made mistakes?**

What is your biggest takeaway? Take time to share. What is the next step? Take time to pray for one another. Be blessed.

Follow the Truth wherever He leads you. He has a Name: Jesus. What is your next step? —the scribe