

BLESSED BE THE NAME

All praise to Him Who reigns above In majesty supreme Who gave His Son for man to die That He might man redeem!

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be the name, blessed be the name Blessed be the name of the Lord

BLESSED BE THE NAME

His name above all names shall stand Exalted more and more At God the Father's own right hand Where angel hosts adore

Blessed be the name, blessed be the name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be the name, blessed be the name Blessed be the name of the Lord (Repeat Chorus)

The Weak and Strong Believer (Pt. 4)

Rom. 14:1-13



1. The Romans have a problem. There is a small group of believers, who have a strong Jewish background and who know a lot about God's Prophetic Program with Israel but not so much about God's Mystery Program with the Body of Christ (weak in THE FAITH). So, they are having trouble understanding how God's Word thru Moses is to interact with God's Word thru Paul:

- a. God's Word through Moses says that acceptance before God includes following the Law's food regulations and observing the Feast days.
- b. God's Word through Paul says acceptance before God is based solely on grace thru faith based on the Work of Christ apart from the Law and its works, including observing the food regulations and feast days.

Well, which one is it? Moses or Paul? They were both the Word of God!

This confusion of requiring the Law to gain, increase or maintain a standing before God and acceptance by God was calling into question everything that God is doing today in the Disp. Of Grace through Paul's apostleship for the world, esp., the Gentiles.

2. This is not a secondary unimportant issue that should be swept under the carpet and ignored. It was something that needed to be dealt with immediately or it would destroy the assembly. Paul gives the right answer in v. 14 and that is the answer all in the assembly needed to accept if there was going to be unity (15:5-6)

--What is the right way to solve this problem?

--How do you get someone who is embracing the wrong answer to embrace the right answer?

- 3. Outline of Rom. 14:1-15:18: THE SOLUTION
 - a. Rom. 14:1-13: <u>The Wrong Way</u>: It must not be enforced through flesh responses!
 - b. Rom. 14:14-15:3: <u>The Right Way</u>: Follow (Jewish) Paul's spiritual pattern in Love and Faith—being persuaded by the Lord—the LORD JESUS (see Paul's Conversion Acts 9:1-6):

Lord=I AM (Jehovah God of Israel)

Jesus= (Jehovah) I AM your salvation

c. Rom. 15:4-20: Then the "strong in the faith" were to bring the "weak in the faith" under their arm and teach them how to <u>rightly</u> <u>-divide God's whole Word</u>.

Rom. 14:1-13	STRONG IN THE FAITH	WEAK IN THE FAITH
v. 1-2: Don't reject those God has received.	Receive the weak in the faith but not to doubtful disputations. One believes he may eat all things	Another, who is weak, eats vegetables (small group with strong Jewish background).
v. 3:	Let not him that eat despise him that doesn't eat.	Let not him who doesn't eat judge him that eats (suggesting that in eating he is not fully accepted by God). God has accepted the strong in the faith (mostly Gentiles) even though they do not follow the Law's food regulations.
v. 4: Don't knock down someone God has made to stand up.		Who are you to judge another's servant? His Master decides if he stands or falls and God has decided to hold up the strong (mostly Gentiles) and make them stand (without following the Law).
v. 5-6: Sonship attitude— persuaded thru God's Word— desiring to do God's will.	 b. One esteems every day the same. Be fully persuaded (by God and His Word) in your own minds—eating and esteeming days before/in presence the Lord, giving thanks to God in faith— 	a. One esteems one day above another Be fully persuaded (by God and His Word) in your own minds—eating and esteeming days before/in the presence of the Lord, giving thanks to God in faith—

Rom. 14:1-13	STRONG IN THE FAITH	WEAK IN THE FAITH
v. 7-8: Sonship Knowing— persuaded thru God's Word— based on positional truth. (2 Cor. 5:15; Rom. 6:11; 8:35-39)	so that whether we live or die it is unto the Lord, cherishing that we belong to the Him.	so that whether we live or die it is unto the Lord cherishing that we belong to the Him.
v. 9: Sonship understanding: The goal of God's plans (Eph. 1:19-23)	For it was to make all believers His Own that Christ died, rose again and was exalted to a place of rulership over all things.	For it was to make all believers His Own that Christ died, rose again and was exalted to a place of rulership.

4. V. 10: How dare the weak to suggest that this isn't sufficient to produce a right and complete standing before God without the Law! How dare the strong to treat the weak as nothing when Christ valued them enough to die for them!

5. This would be a denial of their sonship position.

All Christ's work on the Cross for making all believers—Jews and Gentiles alike—His Own. We belong to the Lord forevermore! To suggest something different is to question all that God has done and is doing today in the world, especially with the Gentiles, apart from Israel's Prophetic Program and Moses's Law and based solely on the Body of Christ's Mystery Program and Pauline Grace.

- Once they receive the Book of Romans, the Romans (and everyone since) will have all the divine instruction they need to solve this problem:
 - a. 1:4-5: Christ's death and resurrection is the basis for accomplishing a new Mystery Program whereby God sends blessings out to the world, **receiving** the Gentiles now thru Paul's apostleship <u>apart from Israel and thru her fall</u> for obedience of the faith.
 - b. 3:21-28: Christ's death and resurrection is the basis for the Righteousness of God in giving ungodly sinners on enemy status with Him a right **standing** before Him (justification) by faith through Christ and His redemptive work on the Cross for them <u>without the works of the Law.</u>

- c. 4:24-5:2: Christ's death and resurrection is the basis for God placing sinners in a right standing before Him by faith (and <u>not by works of the Law</u>), so that He can welcome all believers, Jews and Gentiles alike into a peaceful, SHALOM, relationship with Him, by their receiving a standing in the gracious work of Christ, making them participants in His glory.
- d. 5:5-10: Christ's death and resurrection is the basis for God's love of all ungodly sinners on enemy **status before Him**, including the Gentiles, whereby they **receive** the eternal assurance that now that they have **received** His life, He will do much more for them, having **received** a **standing** of at-one-ment.
- e. 5:15-21: Christ's death and resurrection was so that through His obedience all who believe, including the Gentiles, would **receive** abundance of grace, the free gift of righteousness and life eternal *without the law*.

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Down at the cross where my Savior died Down where for cleansing from sin I cried There to my heart was the blood applied Glory to His name!

Glory to His name! Glory to His name! There to my heart was the blood applied Glory to His name!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

I am so wondrously saved from sin Jesus so sweetly abides within There at the cross where He took me in Glory to His name!

Glory to His name! Glory to His name! There to my heart was the blood applied Glory to His name! (Repeat Chorus)