

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

ROMANS Lesson Four



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

The first half of this short chapter teaches what the Christian's attitude and responsibility toward his government should be. The remaining verses teach us how to relate to our neighbors and how we should live our Christian life.

Read Romans Chapter 13 _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) Why should Christians submit to the higher powers (government authority)? Use your own words.
There are no authorities which God has not established to fulfill his purposes. Therefore, men should submit willingly to higher powers and trust that God has given understanding and knowledge to those that govern. If those that govern do not govern wisely, the believer is to trust that God will see and institute change as necessary.
("He removeth kings and setteth kings" Daniel 2:21 KJV).
2. (v. 2) If a person rebels against authority, he is resisting what? **He is resisting what God has instituted**
Note: The word *damnation* in the KJV version of this verse means the judgment (NIV) or condemnation of men. It does not mean that the person is eternally lost.
3. (v. 3) Rulers hold no terror for those who do right, only for those who do what? **Do wrong**. If we do that which is good (obey the laws), what will we have? **Freedom from fear of the one in authority.**
4. (v. 4) The ruler here is called a servant (minister) of God for our good. What will he do to the one who does evil? **The one who does evil should be afraid, for God's servant will punish the wrongdoer.**
5. (v. 5) Why should we be subject to man's law? **Due to possible punishment and because of conscience**
Note: In spiritual or moral matters "...we ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). While we should obey civil authority, a believer should refuse to do anything that God's Word clearly says is wrong.
6. (v. 6) Why should we pay tribute (taxes) to our government? **To support God's servants who give their full time to governing the people**
Note: They are ministers (servants in the sense that God has given them authority over us).
7. (v. 7) What are four "dues" we should render (give) to civil authority?
 1. **Pay taxes**
 2. **Give respect**
 3. **Give revenue**
 4. **Give honor**

8. (v. 8) Should we always pay our debts? Yes What debt do we have always? To love one another
He that loves his fellowman has done what? Fulfilled the law
9. (v. 9) Which of the Old Testament law's ten commandments are listed here? What is said about love?
1. Do not commit adultery 2. Do not steal
3. Do not murder 4. Do not covet
Love your neighbor as yourself
10. (v. 10) Why does love fulfill the Law? Use your own words. Love does no harm to its neighbor.
11. (v. 11) Why are we to wake out of sleep? Use your own words. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Note: Our salvation here refers to the time when we are taken out of this world into the presence of the Lord.

12. (v. 12) Since the day of Christ's coming may be near, what should we put aside? The deeds of darkness
What should we put on? The armor of light
- 13 (v. 13) Here we are told to walk honestly. List six (6) ways that the believer should not walk.
1. Orgies 2. Debauchery
3. Drunkenness 4. Dissension
5. Sexual immorality 6. Jealousy
- (The KJV word *chambering* refers to adultery.)
14. (v. 14) Instead of the things listed in v. 13, using your own words, what should we do? We should try to live as Jesus lived, trusting in the Lord and doing what is right in the eyes of God.

For Further study read Ephesians 4:24-32 and Colossians 3:10-15.

To clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus means to be so occupied with Him and so desirous of pleasing Him others will see Christ in you and know he controls your life.

“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature” Romans 13:14.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

CONCERNING DOUBTFUL PRACTICES

In the Scofield Bible the heading given to this chapter is, “The Law of Love Concerning Doubtful Things.” This refers to the Christian's responsibility to the immature believer, the one who is said to be “weak in the faith (v. 1).” These brothers are to be welcomed into fellowship rather than to be condemned or looked down upon. Many converts from paganism and Judaism had convictions about eating meat offered to idols and observing religious days. The stronger brother, realizing that under grace he need not be concerned about such things, must yet have a spirit of love and tolerance toward the weaker brother and his beliefs.

Read Romans 14:1-12. _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) Whom are we to accept? Those whose faith is weak
2. (v. 2) What difference of opinion do we see illustrated here? Use your own words. One man's faith lets him eat meat while another man's faith allows him to only eat vegetables
3. (v. 3) There are principles which show what believers should *not* do to one another. These are looking down on others for their respective beliefs and condemning or judging others for their beliefs.
4. (v. 4) A new believer may be considered wrong in some of his convictions. What is God able to do for him? The Lord is able to make him stand
5. (v. 5) One believer may observe certain days (such as the Sabbath) and another may not observe any. What is the rule given here? Everyone should be convinced in his own mind that what he is doing is correct.
6. Verses 6 and 7 illustrate verses 8 and 9. In verse 8, what does Paul say about living, dying and belonging to the Lord? We live to the Lord and we die to the Lord, so whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
7. (v. 10) Why should we not judge or condemn our brother? We will all stand before God's judgment seat.
8. Verse 11 is quoted from Isaiah 45:23. What does verse 12 say that every one of us will do. Each of us will have to give an account of him or herself to God for our lives, what we did or did not do.
Note: This judgment for the believer does not have to do with our salvation. Our sins have already been judged in Christ. However, the judgment seat of Christ is for rewards for our works.
9. (v. 13) We are not to judge one another, rather, how are we to act towards one another? We are not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in our brother's way that may lead him astray.
10. (v. 14) Paul, knowing he was under grace, was convinced of what? No food is unclean, however, if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. This applies to all personal convictions.
Therefore, he could eat any kind of meat, even that which had been offered to idols. Note (v. 15): If we cause our brothers to be grieved (offended) when we eat meat that he will not eat, then we are not "walking charitably" (showing love). So verse 16 says that we must not let what seems good to us be considered evil or wrong to another.
11. (v. 17) Please write out this verse in your own words. The kingdom of God is not a matter of what a person eats or drinks, i.e., what a person's personal convictions are, rather, the kingdom of God is a place of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, where people serve Christ through the Holy Spirit acting in their lives.
12. (v. 18) He who serves Christ in these things is pleasing to God and approved by men.

13. (v. 19) What two things should we make the effort to do? 1. Do what leads to peace.
 2. Do what leads to mutual edification, the building up of individual Christians and the church.
14. (v. 21) Even if a Christian has a clear conscience about doing certain things, why should he be willing to avoid doing them? If what a Christian is doing causes a fellow believer or unbeliever to fall then the Christian should avoid doing those things that are not edifying to others.

It is much more blessed to have liberty before God which we do not use on account of our brother's weakness than to insist on our liberty, though it be distinctly given.

Read Romans 14:22-23. _____ Check.

15. (v. 22) The question of “doubtful things” raised in this chapter is just as important for us today as it was in Paul’s day. Many Christians are puzzled over engaging in certain practices or activities that are not strictly forbidden in scripture. Our actions must be done in faith before God. Who does Paul say is blessed? Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. Everything that does not come from faith is sin.
16. (v. 23) In reaching decisions on doubtful practices, it would be helpful to ask yourself these questions:
1. Can I do it with God’s approval? Would it glorify Him?
 2. Even though convinced that a thing is right for me, will others speak evil of my act?
 3. Will my actions cause a weaker Christian to sin or be tempted?
 4. Does it violate the scripture in any way?

In questionable things the yielded believer will be subject to the following principle:

When in doubt, don’t **do it.** _____

“Everything that does not come **from faith** _____ is **sin** _____.”

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

This chapter is a long one, with many important truths for us. The student should read the entire chapter carefully, trying to understand each verse as he/she reads. The first three verses continue the teaching of Chapter 14.

Read Romans Chapter 15. _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) The first part of this verse tells us that those who are strong (spiritually) should do what? _____
Bear the failings of the weak. _____
2. (vv. 1-3) Each of these three verses contains the word “please”.
 - (v. 1) We are not to please **ourselves.** _____
 - (v. 2) Everyone should please **his neighbor** _____

- (v. 3) For Christ pleased not himself.
3. (v. 4) The things written in times past (the Old Testament) were written for our instruction. Why? So that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
4. (vv. 5-6) Paul prays that God, who gives patience (endurance) and consolation (encouragement), would grant us a spirit of unity among ourselves. So that with one mind (heart) and mouth we might glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. (v. 7) How should we receive each other? Why? Accept one another just as Christ accepted us, in order to bring praise to God.
6. (v. 8) During Jesus Christ's ministry on earth, He was a minister (servant) to the Jews (Israel). Why? This ministry was to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs, that the Gentiles might glorify God.
 Note: The fathers of Israel are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The promises here refer to the Kingdom that God promised to Israel. These promises are the main theme of the Gospel of the Kingdom, preached by the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:23) and the twelve apostles (Matthew 10:7).
7. (vv. 9-12) These verses are references from the Old Testament concerning salvation to Gentile nations. What does v. 10 tell the Gentiles to do? This verse tells the Gentiles to rejoice with His people, Israel.
8. (v. 13) What blessing is stated in this verse and what is the result of the blessing? May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
9. (v. 14) Paul was persuaded that his brethren (brothers) were full of goodness and complete in knowledge.
10. (vv. 15-16) We saw in verse 8 that Christ was a minister to Israel; now we see a contrast in that Paul was the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God. (See also Romans 11:13.)
 Note: The phrase "So that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God" refers to the saved Gentiles who are sanctified by the Holy Spirit, presented to God, and accepted by Him.
11. (vv. 17-18a) Paul said here that he had reason to glory (boast) in Christ Jesus. Explain what Paul had to boast about and whether this was prideful boasting. Use your own words. This was not prideful boasting because Paul is giving praise to the power of Jesus Christ working through him to lead the Gentiles to obey God.
12. (vv. 18-19) Christ worked through Paul, by the Holy Spirit, to bring the Gentiles to obedience (salvation). What did the Holy Spirit empower Paul to do? The Holy Spirit gave Paul the power to do signs, wonders and miracles to convince the Gentiles that Jesus Christ was Lord.

13. (v. 20) What phrase in this verse shows Paul's great desire to preach to those who have never heard of Christ? Paul did not want to build on someone else's foundation.
14. (vv. 21-24) In these four verses Paul talks about his desire to go to Rome. What had kept Paul from visiting Rome? Paul's missionary task, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard it, hindered him in coming to Rome to visit. He hopes that the Romans will assist him on his journey to Spain after he has stayed for a while.
15. (v. 25-26) What was the main reason Paul was going to Jerusalem? Paul was going to Jerusalem in the service of the saints to bring the contribution for the poor saints in Jerusalem.
16. (v. 27) Why were the Gentile believers debtors to the saints in Jerusalem. Use your own words? The Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings so they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

Note: The spiritual things here refer to the salvation of God through Christ which was sent to the Gentiles (see Acts 28:28 and 13:46). The carnal things refer to contributions (such as money) that were sent.

17. (v. 29) What was Paul sure of? Paul knows that when he comes to Rome, he will come with the full blessing of Jesus Christ
18. (vv. 30-32) What are the four things that Paul asks the Roman believers to pray for?
1. Pray that Paul might be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea.
 2. Pray that his service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there.
 3. Pray that by God's will he may come to them with joy.
 4. Pray that with them he and they might be refreshed.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

In this closing chapter of Romans we find a long list of salutations to believers that Paul knew in Rome. In these personal greetings we get some insight into the lives of these people, Paul's love for them, and his thankfulness for their faithfulness. Many of these were previously fellow workers with Paul who now lived in Rome.

1. (vv. 1-2) Because Phebe had been a succorer (helper) of Paul and many others, what two things were the saints in Rome asked to do for her?
1. Receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints.
 2. Give her any help she may need.
2. (vv. 3-4) Here Paul says what two things about Priscilla and Aquila?
1. They were Paul's fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

2. To save Paul's life they had **risked their own.**
3. (v. 5) Where did the believers meet in Paul's time? **They met at the house of Priscilla and Aquila.**
Who was the first convert in Achaia? **Epenetus.**
4. Many faithful Christians are mentioned in verses 6 through 16. Identify them by name.
 1. Paul's fellow prisoners who were saved before Paul. **Andronicus and Junias, Paul's relatives**
 2. "Our helper in Christ". **Urbanus**
 3. "Approved in Christ". **Apelles**
 4. "Whom Paul loves in the Lord". **Amplias**
5. The importance of women helping in the Lord's work is clearly brought out in this passage. Tell something about each of these women.
 1. Phebe: **A servant of the church of Cenchrea**
 2. Mary: **Worked very hard for the Romans**
 3. Priscilla: **A fellow worker with Aquila in Christ Jesus**
 4. Tryphena and Tryphosa: **Women who worked hard for the Lord**
6. In verses 17 and 18 Paul gives warnings against false teachers. What two things do they cause (v. 17)?
 1. **They cause divisions in the church.**
 2. **They put obstacles in the way of the believer.**
7. (v. 18) Whom do they not serve? **They do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ,**
 but serve their own appetites.
8. (v. 19) About what would Paul have the believers be wise? **Be wise about what is good.**
About what would Paul Have the believers be simple (innocent)? **Be innocent about what is evil.**
9. (v. 20) This verse speaks of the promise that God made in Genesis 3:15 concerning Christ who would come and bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). Satan's power will be destroyed. When we go to be with Christ, we will have the victory over sin, death, and Satan. How does Paul encourage the believers ?
 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under their feet.
10. Evidently Paul had a problem with his eyesight (see Galatians 4:15), often dictating his letters to a scribe. Who wrote this epistle for Paul (v. 22)? **Tertius**
11. In verses 21 and 23, Paul names seven men who are with him. How does he describe each of them?
 1. (v. 21) Timothy **Paul's fellow worker**
 2. (v. 21) Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater **Paul's relatives**
 3. (v. 23) Gaius **whose hospitality Paul and the whole church have enjoyed**
 4. (v. 23) Erastus **who is the city's director of public works**
 5. (v. 23) Quartus **our brother**
12. (v. 25) By what two ways does Paul state a Christian may be established in sound doctrine?

1. According to Paul's gospel.

2. By the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

Note: The "mystery" referred to in verse 25 is more fully revealed to us in Ephesians 3:1-10 and Colossians 1:24-27. This mystery, revealed through Paul, refers to all the truths concerning the body of Christ in this present dispensation of grace. These truths are found only in Paul's epistles, and it is important to know them in order to be established in the faith.

13. (v. 26) This mystery now is manifested (revealed) and made known by the "scriptures of the prophets." (The literal Greek translation is "prophetic writings.") Paul writes the only scriptures we have concerning this mystery, thus the mystery is revealed through Paul's prophetic writings. The scriptures that Paul wrote concerning this mystery were made known to whom by whose command? _____

They were made known to Paul by the command of the eternal God.

14. (v. 27) How does Paul close this letter? To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ

Amen.

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