

“Consider This”
Romans 14:9-13

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back In Our Bibles To Romans 14:
 - Where - Last Sunday:
 - We Took A Brief Break:
 - From Looking At The Main Theme Of This Chapter:
 - And Lingered A Bit On Just One Verse:
 - 14:9 - To Help Us Remember The Great Plan & Purpose:
 - For Jesus Christ Coming Into This World!
2. Well - From That Verse:
 - Through Verse 13 - Which Will Be Our Text This Morning:
 - The Apostle Paul Continues To Address:
 - How That Gospel Ought To Influence:
 - The Choices & Decisions We Make:
 - As Christians - Especially:
 - As We Relate To One Another Within The Body Of Christ!
3. So - Not Only Are We To Make Our Decisions:
 - To The Lord & For His Glory:
 - As We Learned From 9:5-8:
 - There Are Some Other Things:
 - That We Are To Consider As Well!
 - And So - Let's Read Together:
 - 9:9-13 - “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. / 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. / For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. / So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. / 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!”
4. In These Verses:
 - We Find 4 Additional Things:
 - That You And I Need To Remember & Consider:
 - When We Make Decisions:
 - About Matters That:
 - Are Not Already Clearly Addressed In TBible! First:

1. *Consider Your Allegiance To The Lord!*

- **IE:** With The Commemoration Of The 20th Anniversary Of The 9/11 Attacks Yesterday - I Was Reminded Of What Allegiance Means & Ought To Look Like! At The Places Attacked - As Well As Throughout The United States - Though Our Nation Was As Diverse Then As We Are Today - One Banner Flew & United Us All Together As One Nation & As One People - All Americans!
 - Well - An Even Deeper Allegiance Is The Focus Of 9:9 - Which We Spent Time:
 - Meditating On Together Last Week:
 - During Our Lord's Supper Service!
 - And The Gospel Ought To Influence:
 - All Of Your Decisions As A Christian:
 - Because You Were “Bought With A Price” – Even With – “The Precious Blood Of Christ!”
 - 9:9 - “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living!”
 - So Now - You Owe Your Complete Allegiance:
 - To The Lord Because Of:
 - His Own Mission!
 - Christ's Mission To This World:
 - Was Not A “Search & Destroy” Mission!
 - It Was A Mission To:
 - “Seek & To Save That Which Was Lost!”

- And Included:
- His Redemption:
 - Through His Death:
 - On The Cross Of Calvary:
 - Not For Crimes Which He Had Done:
 - But For Your Sin & My Sin! As A Sacrifice & A Substitute, As Our Savior!
 - “For To This End Christ Died!”
 - And Now - Since:
 - “Jesus Paid It All – All To Him I Owe!”
 - His Mission Also Included:
- His Resurrection!
 - He Also “Rose” So That:
 - He Might Keep All His Promises:
 - To Those Who Believe In Him!
 - Even The One He Made In:
 - John 14:19 - “Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also!”
 - But His Mission Also Included:
- His Return - To Heaven:
 - To Be Exalted & “Given A Name Which Is Above Every Name!”
 - When Jesus Ascended Back To Heaven:
 - He Fully “Revived” To His Everlasting Life And Glory:
 - That He Had With His Father “Before The World Was!”
- This Special Plan & Mission:
 - Was Accomplished By Jesus:
 - For Your Salvation!
 - And When You Believe In Him:
 - He Deserves Your Allegiance!
 - But Also Because Of:
- His Own Majesty:
 - Which Was The Primary Purpose Of His Coming!
 - 14:9b - “***For to this end*** Christ both died, and rose, and revived, ***that he might be Lord both of the dead and living!***”
 - There Is - Even Right Now:
 - There Is Absolutely Nothing & Absolutely Noone:
 - Who Is Outside Of The Rule & Reign:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - Whether Someone Is:
 - Dead Or Alive - Physically:
 - Or - Dead Or Alive - Spiritually:
 - Jesus Is “Lord Of All!”
- And - He Is Especially:
 - Lord Of You!
 - Because - When You Believe In Him:
 - You Belong To Him:
 - And You Owe Your Everything:
 - To Him - Even:
 - Your Complete Allegiance!
 - So - Consider This:
 - In All Of Your Roles & Responsibilities & Relationships:
 - As Christ’s Subject!
 - Consider Your Allegiance:
 - To Him As Your Lord!

* In 14:10-11 - We Find Another Thing To Remember & Consider!

2. ***Consider Your Accountability To The Lord!***

- **IE:** What Does It Mean To Be “Held Accountable”? Accountability & Responsibility Are Words That Are Often Used, But Seldom Understood Or Even Applied! Something Tragic Happens Under A Leaders Watch - And They

- Say - "I Take Full Responsibility!" And Then - Experience No Consequences For Their Actions!
 - Well - The Time Will Come When All People:
 - Will Be Held Accountable:
 - By The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - And There Will Be No Excuses & There Will Be No Escape!
 - And This Applies Even To Us As Believers In Christ!
 - As We Find At The End Of 14:10:
 - "For We Shall All Stand Before The Judgment Seat Of Christ!"
 - We Are Told This Also In 2 Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad!"
 - Some Day You Will Appear Before Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Lord & Judge:
 - To Give An Account Of Your Life To Him!
 - And Because Of This:
 - It Ought To Cause Us To Stop:
- The Improper Judgment:
 - That Paul Describes Going On In 14:10a:
 - "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?" (14:3 Too)
 - Here - As He Did Earlier In This Chapter:
 - Paul Addresses Christians:
 - Who May Be Both Weaker & Stronger In Their Faith!
 - To The Christian Weaker In Faith:
 - He Says - "Why Dost Thou Judge Thy Brother?"
 - Or - Why Is There Condemnation:
 - Going On In The Church:
 - About Matters That Christ Has Given You Freedom?
 - Matters That Are Not Clearly Addressed:
 - In The Scriptures?
 - Don't You Know That:
 - You **And** Your Brother Will Appear Before The Lord As Your Judge?
 - To The Christian Stronger In Faith:
 - He Says - "Why Dost Thou Set At Nought Thy Brother?"
 - Or - Why Is There Contempt:
 - Going On In The Church:
 - About Matters That Others Are Sensitive To?
 - Though You Have A Responsibility:
 - Toward Each Other:
 - Your Accountability:
 - Is To The Lord!
 - And You Need To Consider This In Your Choices & Decisions!
 - Because Of:
 - The Impending Judgment:
 - "Before The Judgment Seat Of Christ!"
 - This Is A Real Judgment:
 - That Is:
 - Comprehensive!
 - "For We Shall **All** Stand!"
 - You Have A Personal Appointment:
 - To Stand Before The Lord:
 - One Day! And That Appointment Is Also:
 - Certain!
 - In 14:11 Paul Quotes From A Couple Of Passages In Isaiah:
 - To Show That There Are No Exemptions:
 - When It Comes To The Judgment Of The Lord!
 - "For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God!"
 - Both Unbelievers & Believers:

- Will Be Held Accountable:
 - By The Lord:
 - On Their Judgment Day!
- And The Main Difference Between Those Judgments:
 - Is That Some:
 - Will Stand Before The Lord:
 - Alone!
 - While Others:
 - Will Have The Lord Himself:
 - As Their Advocate!
- But Even Those - Perhaps Even You:
 - Will Have Tears On That Day:
 - That Will Need To Be Wiped Away:
 - Because You Did Not Live:
 - In The Light Of:
 - "The Judgment Seat Of Christ!"
 - And That Is Why Your Personal Judgment Day Will Be:
- Consequential!
 - Instead Of "Gold, Silver, & Precious Stones!"
 - If You Built Upon Your Foundation:
 - "Wood, Hay, & Stubble!"
 - The "Fire" Of Christ's Judgment "Shall Try Every Man's Work Of What Sort It Is!"
 - And - As Paul Continues In 1 Corinthians 3:14-15:
 - "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. / If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire!"
- So - Consider This:
 - In The Daily Choices & Decisions You Make:
 - As A Child Of God!
 - Consider Your Accountability:
 - To Him As Your Judge!

* And Then - Third - Remember And:

3. Consider Your Answer To The Lord!

- **IE:** Remember In School - And The Teacher Calls On You To Stand & Answer A Question! Whether Shy Or Not Prepared Or Not Paying Attention - Put You On The Spot! The Longer You Stood There - The More Embarrassed You Became - At Some Point - The Teacher Might Have Mercy - And Have You Sit Down - And Ask Another Student Instead! Relief! What Will It Be Like On Our Day Of Accountability Before God?
- This Is What We Find In:
 - 14:12 - "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God!"
 - The Word Translated "Account" Here:
 - Is "Word!"
 - So - Not Only Will You:
 - One Day:
 - See The Lord!
 - Not Only Will You:
 - Stand Before The Lord!
 - You Will Also:
 - Speak To The Lord:
 - And Have To Give Him An Answer!
 - And What Then Will You Have To Say:
 - To Him:
 - On That Day?
 - How Will You Answer:
 - For The Talents:
 - You Were Given:

- By The Lord?
- Matthew 25!

- And - How Will You Answer:
- For Your Treatment Of:
- Your Brethren In Christ?
- Whether They Be Stronger Or Weaker In The Faith?

- As With Your Accountability:
- Your Answer Will Be:

- Without An Exception!
- Paul Reminds Us That This Applies:
- To "Every One Of Us!"
- This Will Be A Very:
- Personal & Pervasive Answer:
- That Will Be Required Of Us!

- Not Just About:
- What Was Seen By Men:
- But About What Was Seen:
- By God!
- Remember Hebrews 4:13:
- Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things [are] naked
and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do!"

- Your Answer Will Also Be:

- Without An Excuse!
- No Finger-Pointing - And:
- Not Even Silence:
- Will Be Permitted On That Day!

- And Since "Every One Of Us Shall Give Account Of Himself To God" - Then:
- "We Should Await His Decision, And Not Presume To Act The Part Of Judge Over Our Brethren!"
(Charles Hodge)
- In Other Words:
- We Can Leave Judgment:
- Of Unclear Matters:
- In The Capable Hands Of God!

- And Then - Consider This:
- In The Use Of Our Own Talents:
- And In Our Own Treatment:
- Of Others!
- Consider Your Answer:
- To The Lord:
- As Your God!

* But - One Might Wonder - What Does All Of This Have To Do:

- With Our Responsibilities & Relationships:
- As Christians Within The Church?
- Well - These Three Considerations:
- All Lead Up To A Fourth:
- In 14:13!

- Because You:
- Owe Your Allegiance:
- To The Lord!

- Because You:
- Are Accountable:
- To The Lord! And:

- Because You:
- Will Answer:
- To The Lord One Day!
- Then:

4. ***Consider Your Actions Before The Lord!***

- 14:13 - "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!"

- With The Word "Therefore" - Paul Brings Us:

- To The Conclusion Of This Matter!

- In Your Relationships Within The Body Of Christ:

- There Are Some Things That You & I Need To Stop Doing!

- "Let Us Not!"

- Let Us Not:

- Hurt One Another:

- Because One Christian's Faith:

- May Be Weaker Or Stronger:

- Than Another's!

- "Let Us Not Therefore Judge One Another Any More!"

- Of Course - This Is To Be Observed:

- In Light Of Christ's Words To Us:

- Back In John 7:24 - "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment!"

- In Clear Matters Of Faith & Practice:

- We Are To Make Judgments:

- According To God's Standards:

- Found In His Word:

- Not Our Own!

- But In Other Matters:

- Remember That The Lord Alone:

- Is The Judge Of His People!

- After All - This Is Why He Came:

- In The First Place - 14:9 - "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living!"

- So - "Let Us Not" Hurt One Another!

- Also:

- Let Us Not:

- Hinder One Another:

- Because Of The Freedoms:

- That We May Have As Christians!

- Because In Some Cases:

- And With Some Christians:

- Those Freedoms:

- May Become Stumblingblocks:

- That Can Hinder The Faith & Walk Of A Christian Who May Be Weaker In Faith!

- And This Is Why:

- The Choices & Decisions You Make:

- Are Important And Ought To Be Done:

- Thoughtfully & Tenderly!

- So - "Let Us Not" Hinder One Another!

- Also:

- Let Us Not:

- Harm One Another:

- Because Of The Frustration:

- That Can Be Felt:

- When It Seems As If Someone:

- Continues To Be Weak In Their Faith!

- In The Last Part Of 14:13 - Paul Tells Us:

- "That no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in [his] brother's way!"

- A Stumbling-Block:

- Can Be Something Done:

- Inadvertently & Unintentionally!

- But “An Occasion To Fall” - Or:
 - A Snare - Is Often Placed:
 - Intentionally!
- And Even Christians:
 - Can Use The Wrong Means:
 - To Achieve What Seems To Be:
 - A Good End!
 - Like Stronger Faith!
 - And So - You Might Do Or Say Something:
 - Out Of Frustration:
 - Or - To “Prove A Point” - Or:
 - To Even Embarrass A Brother Or Sister In Christ:
 - About Their Sensitivities Or Standards!
- Instead - “Let Us Not” Harm One Another:
 - As We Each Continue To Grow:
 - In Grace & Faith:
 - In Our Personal Walks:
 - With The Lord!
- But - Even Though In This Verse:
 - Paul Approaches Our Actions & Attitudes:
 - Towards Each Other:
 - With These Negatives:
 - “Let Us Not!”
 - It Also Implies:
 - The Positive!
 - “Let Us!”
- Let Us:
 - Help One Another!
 - And Use Our Decisions & Choices & Freedoms:
 - To Do So!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Allegiance:
 - That You Now Owe:
 - To The Lord!
 - John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another!”
2. This Is The Accountability:
 - That You Now Have:
 - Before The Lord!
3. But - Will This Be:
 - The Answer That You Will Give:
 - To The Lord:
 - On That Day?
4. Consider This:
 - As You Make Your Decisions & Choices:
 - Even Today!

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