

Bible Study - Series 2 - Following Christ - Week 3

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read: Romans 14: 1-12

1. "Rom 14:1 And receive him who is weak in the faith, but not to judgments of your thoughts." The one that are "weak in the faith" are the Christians that are not strong in their faith yet. What is the practical meaning of verse one for us as Christians?
2. The problem (verse 2, 5 and 21:) must Christians keep certain days and certain habits and a certain diet and are they allowed to drink wine?
3. What are the basic Christian principles stressed in verse 3 and 4 and what are the important arguments used? (See Matthew 7: 1-5 on this matter as well.)
4. What are the two important measures for Christian conduct mentioned in verse 5-8?
5. What does verse 9-12 say to each of us?

Day: 2

Read: Romans 14:13-23

1. Verse 13: A stumbling-block is something that can make someone trip, it can be a trap set deliberately to make someone stumble. No Christian should present a stumbling block by anything in his or her life. Is there something of the kind in your life?
2. Verse 14-20 most probably deals with the old Jewish laws of clean and unclean as far as food is concerned. Formulate, in your own words, the principle laid down here.
3. Verse 15 gives the most important principle for a Christian's conduct "Do not with your food destroy him for whom Christ died." Name the important word here.
4. Give the message of verse 17.
5. What is meant by "So then let us pursue the things of peace and the things for building up one another?"
6. up one another?"
7. What are the important principles for Christian life given in verse 21-23?

Day: 3

Read: Romans 15: 1-7

1. **Verse 1:** and not to please ourselves **Verse 2:** please his neighbor for his good **Verse 3:** For even Christ did not please Himself. The word "please" are used in all three these verses. What do you think is the important demand for a Christian life that we have to see in this?
2. **Verse 5:** And may the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded toward one another **according to Christ Jesus, Verse 6:** so that with one

- mind and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. What is the demand on the Christian life "according to Christ Jesus?" There is a demand, an example and a purpose, what is it?
3. **Verse 7:** "Therefore receive one another as Christ also received us, to the glory of God" This verse summarizes the command, the example and the purpose, name it again because it is important to our Christian life.

Day: 4

Read: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

1. The words in verse 12-13 probably play on two well know proverbs of the pagan in Corinth, "to me every thing is lawful" and "The food is for the stomach and the stomach is for the food" actually meaning "eat and drink and be happy" They used it for all their bodily lusts so they can give free reign to all their desires. The problem was that Christian that wanted to live an immoral life used these pagan "proverbs" to "prove" themselves right. The world had a very bad influence on the Christians in Corinth.
2. With which words does Paul qualify these so called "proverbs" for the Christians? Name them.
3. In verse 14-20 Paul gives us the high Biblical view of our bodies and a moral sexual life. How many principles do you find?
4. What is the important lesson in verse 19 concerning the Holy Spirit and the believer? Is it meant for all Christians or only for some?
5. Verse 20: "for you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Give these final words of Paul concerning our lives in your own words.

Day: 5

Read: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

1. Have a look at verse 1a and 7:1. Paul is answering questions from the congregation here. He is answering questions concerning practical problems that they want clarified. Here it is about eating of the meat that was part of the meat offered as sacrifices to idols. His answer here is very important as far as our conduct in this world goes.
2. **Verse 1-6:** The "knowledge" people say what is written in verse 4-6. On that basis they joined freely in the festivities of their pagan friends. What does Paul say about it in verse 1-3?
3. **Verse 7-13:** Summarize Paul's words here. It can actually be summarized in one of the verses, which one?

Day: 6

Read: 1 Corinthians 10: 12-22

1. Verse 12: Wherefore, verse 14: Wherefore. Paul is summarizing what he explained in detail in 1 Corinthians 8: 1 concerning eating meat that has been a sacrifice to idols. Have a look at the warning in verse 12 and the promise in verse 13. Remember that that sometimes the help God gives you is simply to run away from the temptation. (Verse 14 - get out of their company as fast as you can) Many times simply getting out is the best thing to do. Have a look at 1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Timothy 6: 11 and Genesis 39: 10-12.
2. Verse 15-21: Paul uses the example of Holy Communion as a very strong argument for abstaining from the feasts for idols. What is the meaning of the basic statement in verse 15-16? Have a special look at his conclusion in verse 17-20 and his strong statement in verse 21.
3. What exactly does the serious warning in verse 22 means? Have a look at Exodus 20: 5.

Group Bible Study, Week 3, Series 2

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Verse 23: "*Anything goes*" was the motto of the heathens in this pagan city. It appears that some Christians tried to defend their immoral life with this motto. They saw the Christian freedom as freedom to sin, but as we see in Romans 6:18 a Christian should be free of sin. "*But not all things profit*" will it build me up as a Christian does it have any "profit"? "*But not all things build up*" will it "build" the congregation?

Verse 25-27: Paul is answering one of the questions asked by the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 8:1) Is a Christian allowed to eat meat that has been part of the meat that has been a sacrifice to an idol? With the leftover meat the Corinthians organized a feast and then they invited their former friends that have now become Christians. What is a Christian to do when he receives such an invitation? The priests, of the idols, also received their share of the meat and what they could not eat, were sold in a butchery. Now the question was whether a Christian was allowed to buy meat at a butchery as it may be such meat.

Verse 28-29: If your host informs you that the meat is sacrificial meat, it is best not to eat it for the sake of your host's conscience, not your own.

Verse 30-31: This is how everyone will know that you are a person that puts God's honor above all. This is a person that wants to have nothing to do with idols. In his life God is honored and He rules in this person's life. He alone is King.

Verse 1: "Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" a beautiful definition of a Christian, he is someone that follows Jesus. A follower of Christ.

1. To know what is allowed a Christian must always ask two questions as you see them in verse 23, will it profit and will it build? What are the implications for us in our lives, what does it say in practice?
2. What is the important principle for a Christian's life do we get in verse 24 and 32-33?

3. Say in your own words what verse 31 means and stipulate the practical consequences for our lives.
4. What does it mean to be "grateful to God for what is on the table?" How can this help to tell you what is right and what is wrong for a disciple of Jesus?
5. Young people often say that as long as they can take Jesus with them where they go, everything is fine, they can partake. Is there a confirmation for this argument in this piece?
6. Can you think of incidents in your life where this piece, and the principles in it, would have given you the answer, or can you even think of situation you are in at the moment that can be resolved by the principles in this piece?