

The Book of Romans - Part 42

As you join me today, let me remind you that we are exploring the book of Romans, and last time, we left off with verse 12 of Romans 13. I'd like to recap that for just a moment. It says, *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

"The night is far spent" – this means that the night has advanced and it's gone; it's far gone, and it's almost over. But it's not quite.

"*The day is at hand*" – I believe this is speaking of the day of the Rapture. The Lord's coming is so near it's almost here, I believe is what Paul is saying, and we are living in this dark world. It's still nighttime but the day will soon be here. As believers, we are looking for that day. We're looking for the day of Christ, the day of Christ's return, the day of the Rapture. The Bible says, looking for that blessed hope, waiting expectantly for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We're to put on the armor of light. We're to be clothed. We're to wait for that day. We're to be busy. Remember in Romans chapter 12, verse 1, it says that we're to present our bodies a living sacrifice. We're to present our bodies as a service to be in the service of the Lord until He says, "Come up hither."

Now, in Romans 13:13, the Bible says, *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.* I call this "party sins." Believers are to walk honestly or decently. The same word is found in I Corinthians 14:40. It says, *Let all things be done decently and in order.* We're to do things that bring honor and glory to our Lord. We're to walk properly as the children of light. Even though it's still night, we're not of the night, and we're to walk in a manner that

is proper and decent for those who belong to the day.

As we read on, it talks about rioting. It means revelry. This is excessive feasting, carousing, drinking, dancing. We're to watch out for those things. We're not to be drunk.

It talks about drunkenness. This means being drunk physically or living our lives oblivious to what is going on around us or being drunk physically. We're to stay awake, alert, and sober, filled with the Spirit, not drunk with wine, as Ephesians 5:18 says. Now, I call that party sins in that verse.

The next is "bedroom sins." Romans 13:13 says, *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.* "Chambering" refers to any sexual activity outside of marriage. Sexual immorality of any kind, heterosexual or homosexual, is an abomination to the Lord. "Heterosexual" there means outside of marriage. Hebrews 13:4 says, *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

Notice the word "wantonness." This means having no sexual restraint, uncontrolled lust, lasciviousness. It means unbridled lust, debauchery, extreme indulgence in sensuality, and it could include orgies, wife-swapping, and other sexual excesses. Galatians 5:19 says, *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness....* There are many other verses that we could look into. First Peter 4:3 and Mark 7:21-22 talk about this.

Well, that was bedroom sins. Now, let's look at "satanic sins." In that verse 13, it talks

about strife and envy. "Strife" means discord, contention, quarreling. In Galatians 5:20, it says, *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance...* and that has to do with that... *emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies....*

First Corinthians 1:11 says, *For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.* This would be quarrellings among the people of God, and this is not to be.

That verse also talks about envying. Remember now, these are the satanic sins. The devil is the author of this, of course, and envying is jealousy or wanting what another has or what another can do. The sins of strife and envying both have pride at their root, the very sin which resulted in the fall of Satan.

First Timothy 3:6 says, *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil ... of the same that caused the devil's fall.* First Timothy 6:4 says, *He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising....* We're not to be like that.

Romans 13:14: *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.* Put on the Lord. This has the idea to clothe oneself, to put on the character of Christ so He can be seen, and this is our testimony. Let me remind you that everything we do in the Lord's service is to bring honor and glory to Him.

Now, in Galatians 3:27 it says, *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* This speaks of a believer's standing position, but the passage in Romans 13:14 is speaking of a believer's state. This is the testimony. This is how a Christian is to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and to have the testimony of the Lord. And it says

also in that verse, *[M]ake not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.* It means do not make arrangement or provision to fulfill the lust of the flesh. In other words, don't make provisions to sin. First Peter 2:11 says, *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul....* You might want to read later on I Peter 4:2 and Ephesians 2:3 in connection with that verse I just read.

Now we go into chapter 14 of the book of Romans, exploring the book of Romans. First, I believe in this chapter the Lord wants us to learn how strong and weak brethren should deal with one another, and then also, it has to do with things that are pleasing to God. We need to realize that there are strong and weak Christians, and the first thing we see here in verses 1-4 is how to treat each other as Christians.

It says in verse 1, *Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. ²For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. ³Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. ⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*

The strong are to receive and not to despise the weak, according to Romans 14:1, and the one who is weak is a believer because he is in the faith. He's weak but he is still a believer, and there is no indication from the context that there is a moral problem involved here. We are to receive. We are not to receive the weak believer for the purpose of having a big dispute and quarrel, criticizing him, trying to prove from the Scriptures that he is immature. We're not to argue simply to prove a point, and disputations could arise because the more

mature believer is following the teachings as set forth in the Gospel. In other words, a more mature believer would actually know more about the Scriptures than a person who has just been saved.

First Timothy 4:4-5 says, *4For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

Babes in Christ are not to be criticized; they are to be helped along; they are to be nurtured. Disputations could arise because the weaker believer was following the teachings as set forth in Leviticus 11.

Remember, he's not only talking to Gentiles here; he's talking to Jews who have recently been saved and they may still look at the Old Testament. They need to be led to a point of knowing that what they offered as sacrifices is not necessary because Jesus is the Sacrifice that made the difference. He is the One who died for their sins.

The believer mentioned in Romans 14:2 was evidently a Jew. He was still observing Jewish instructions about eating as set forth in Leviticus 11. A stronger Christian is not to hold in contempt or despise the weaker Christian. We are to help that Christian along.

Now notice in verse 5: *One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.* This is still carrying on the same thought here now. "One man esteemeth one day above another" – an example of that would be a Jewish believer who retains a high regard for certain days, such as Jewish holidays, feasts, and so forth. And even a non-Jewish Christian believer may have high regard for certain days, such as Sunday, but the Bible tells us that we're to esteem all days as unto the Lord to bring honor and glory to Him. And just because one person esteems one day above another, we're not to look down on that person, but we are to pray for that person, and we're to

pray for each other that we become strong, not causing trouble, not causing a disputation, but realizing that every one of us is saved the same way.

Romans 14:6 says, *He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord... that's the way we're supposed to do it... and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.* Each day and whatsoever is eaten is to be dedicated to the Lord. Whatever we do is to be dedicated to the Lord with thanksgiving.

Now, in our next study, we'll pick up with Romans 14:7-9, and we'll look on beyond those verses, but that's where we're going to pick up with those verses in chapter 14.

Do you know the Lord as your Savior today? You need to ask Him into your heart. You need to realize that you can't save yourself, that without Jesus Christ, you'll never see Heaven. There's only one way to Heaven. The Bible tells us that no man comes to the Father but by Jesus Christ. In other words, the only way you can get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Savior and He wants to save you today. Realize you're lost and you need a Savior and Jesus is that Savior.

Well, let me invite you to look at our Website, www.LRWM.org. On the Website you can make sure of Heaven by looking at the Scriptures that are presented there and you can be 100% sure that you're on your way to Heaven. And as a Christian, you can find Bible study helps there that will help you study the Word of God. You'll also find transcripts of this program and others of "It's a Good Life," and you can also listen to this program again and other programs of "It's a Good Life."

Write to me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Write to me

and let me know you're listening and list some prayer requests that you have. I'll pray with you that God will answer those requests. You may have someone who is not saved you want prayer for or someone may be ill and you'd like for us to pray for them, as well.

Maybe you're ill and you'd like for us to pray for you. Whatever it is, write to me today, and I'll be glad to pray with you for those requests and take it to the Lord.

Until the next time, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.