

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

15th-20th July 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:1-6 - Honouring our Master

notes Those who are strong are not to despise the weak, and those who are weak are not to judge the strong. Why? First, as we saw on Saturday, because God has received them both, and we are not to reject those whom God has received. Secondly, weak and strong Christians are our brothers, but they are not our servants. We are not their master, God is. When we take it upon ourselves to personally judge them, especially to judge their thoughts and intentions, about which we know nothing, we are usurping God's role. God sees not as man sees, and He is their Master, not we. We have enough work to do on ourselves, and if we need to judge, let us start with our own heart and thoughts and actions. It is a good thing that we don't stand or fall by the judgement of others but by the righteous and perfect judgement of God.

Thirdly, weak and strong believers, should be seeking to please God in what they do, and so should not be despised or judged. The one who observes days, not imposing it upon others, nor putting a priority on it over other necessary things, but thinking there is no harm in resting from work and worshipping God on those days, is honouring God. On the other hand, the one that does not make a difference between one day and another, not out of a spirit of opposition or contempt of his brother, but because he knows God has made no distinction, honours God as well in endeavouring to dedicate every day to Him. The one who eats, understanding the liberty that God has given him, using it to the glory of God, and giving thanks for it honours God. And the one who is afraid of offending God and so does not eat, but gives God thanks that there are other things to eat, honours God as well. If both are seeking to honour God in what they do, why should either of them be judged or despised?

- questions**
1. Who is the Christian's master?
 2. What should we be seeking to do in all we do?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 65A:all
1. Pray that you would honour God in everything you do.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:19-23 - Peace and Upbuilding

notes When stronger Christians deliberately cause offense to weaker Christians not only are they being unloving and forgetting the work of Christ, they are undermining the work of God in that Christian's heart (v.20). Grace and peace are a work of God, and we must be careful that by our behaviour we are not shaking the grace and peace others have. Deliberately causing offense is an abuse of Christian liberty and it is sinful. We may do something, not in and of itself wrong, but we may be doing it carelessly or deliberately to provoke someone. Christian liberty is a good gift, and we shouldn't abuse it and give people opportunity to speak against it. We can't stop people from thinking and saying wrong things, but we can try to not give them a reason to do it. We also should be careful of our name and reputation as a follower of Christ. As we saw earlier this week, we only need to answer to God for our hearts, but we also have a responsibility not to give people an opportunity to speak badly of our Lord and Saviour because of our actions. If we believe we have Christian liberty in an area, that is good, but we don't need to flaunt it in front of others (v.22).

Verse 19 sums up this chapter. We must pursue mutual peace. Many wish for peace, talk loudly about it, but don't do the things that make for peace. Liberty in non-essentials, love to those that are weak, zeal in the great things of God; these are things that make for peace. Meekness, humility, self-denial, and love make for peace. We must pursue mutual upbuilding. Peace makes way for this. We can't build each other up while we are quarrelling and fighting. We can build each other up by good counsel, reproof, instruction, and example. None are too strong to be built up and none are too weak to build others up.

- questions**
1. Why should we be careful with our Christian liberty?
 2. How can we build each other up?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 66A:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:13-21 - Stumbling Block

notes Paul also makes clear in this chapter that those who are stronger Christians and understand their Christian liberty, need to be careful how they use it so as not to be a hindrance to weaker Christians (v.13). We must be careful not to say or do anything which may cause our brother to stumble or fall. Obviously we are not responsible for the sins and struggles of others, but we don't need to make it more difficult for them. Not only should we be careful not to upset them by what we are doing (v.15), but we must also be careful that we don't pressure them to follow our example when they are not persuaded that it is right, for as we saw yesterday to do that would be sin (v.21-22). It's better to deny ourselves things that are not really necessary than to offend and hurt our brother.

Paul condemns the stronger Christian's lack of love more than the weaker Christian's lack of knowledge. The stronger Christian should know better, and he should take the lead in this situation. True Christian love should make us tender towards others and care for their consciences as we would care for our own. Paul also reminds us of Christ's death (v.15). Drawing a soul to sin threatens the destruction of that soul. By shaking his faith and tempting him to act against his own conscience, you are working to destroy him. Remembering the love of Christ in dying for souls should make us very aware of the happiness and salvation of souls, and careful not to do anything which may obstruct and hinder them. Paul is basically saying, Did Christ give up His life in heaven for them, and we can't give up meat? Will we despise those whom Christ valued so highly? Did Christ think it worthwhile to deny so much for them as to die for them, and we don't think it worthwhile to deny ourselves so little for them?

questions 1. What should stronger Christians be careful not to do?
2. How should we view other Christians?

praise pray Ps. 65C:7-12
1. Pray that you would not be a stumbling-block to others.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:7-12 - Living for the Lord

notes True Christians live not for themselves, but for the Lord. This is something all believers, whether weak or strong, agree upon. We are not our own masters, we are not at our own disposal. The business of our lives is not to please ourselves, but to please God. We live to glorify God, we die to glorify God, and we go to be glorified with Him. We are the Lord's - devoted to Him, depending on Him, and designed for Him. Though some Christians are weak and others strong, though we all have different abilities and jobs and roles, we are all the Lord's. He died and rose again to rule over us; all power and authority has been given Him, and we are His.

Every one of us will one day have to give an account to God. Christ will be our Judge, so why do we need to despise and judge the hearts of others? Christ is Lord, and He is God, and all men will bow to Him. His friends will do it freely, bowing to His truth, His laws, His authority, confessing His glory, grace, and greatness, and acknowledging their sinfulness. His enemies will do it, whether they want to or not. We don't need to give an account of our hearts to others, they do not need to do it to us. But every one of us must give an account of himself to God. We must give an account for how we have spent our time, how we have used the opportunities given us to grow in our faith, for what we have done, and how we have done it. So, we don't need to judge the hearts of others, for they are not accountable to us, and we are not accountable for them. Whatever they are, and whatever they do, they must give an account to their own master, and not us; if we can help them, that's good, but we do not have dominion over their heart. We have enough to do to hold ourselves accountable, to search our own heart and life.

questions 1. Who do we live for?
2. To whom must we give an account?

praise pray Ps. 65B:1-6
1. Pray that you would live wholeheartedly for the Lord.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:13-18 - Essential Christianity

notes These things, eating or not eating, observing or not observing days, these are not the essentials of Christianity. Why then, Paul asks, are these Christians spending so much time despising and judging each other over non-essentials? What is essential Christianity then? Paul describes it as the kingdom of God (v.17). It is a faith that rules us, it is being subject to God's power and dominion. It is not eating and drinking. True Christianity is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (v.17). These are some of the essentials of Christianity, things in which all the people of God are agreed. Towards God our great concern is righteousness - to appear before Him justified by the merit of Christ's death, sanctified by the Spirit of His grace; for the righteous Lord loves righteousness. Towards others our concern is peace - to live in peace and love with them; Christ came into the world to be the great peacemaker. Towards ourselves our concern is joy in the Holy Spirit - that spiritual joy which the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of believers, which sees God as their Father and heaven as their home. But we can only have the peace and joy when the foundation is laid in righteousness. True Christianity is also serving Christ (v.18). He is our Master and doing His will for His glory should be our goal. We ought to serve Him who for our salvation came as a servant to us.

The one who is concentrating on the essentials of Christianity will be acceptable to God (v.18). Those are most pleasing to God that are best pleased with Him; and they are the ones that will increase in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The Christian who is focusing on the essentials will also be approved of by men (v.18), by wise and good men, and the opinions of others do not matter.

questions
1. What are the essentials of Christianity?
2. What should we approve of?

praise pray Ps. 65B:7-13
1. Give thanks for the righteousness we have in Christ.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
Romans 8:34

reading Romans 14:13-23 - Sinning Against Conscience

notes Paul makes it very clear that whatever we do we need to be persuaded in our own minds that it is the right thing to do (v.5). If you are doubtful about whether something is right, you shouldn't do it. We can't just blindly follow others, but we need to follow our conscience, our own understanding of what God has said in His Word we are to do.

If something is not, in itself, a sin to do, but if we are convinced that it is a sin, and we do it anyway, then we are sinning (v.14). Why? Because even though our conscience is mistaken, it is as though we are saying, I'm convinced this thing is wrong and a sin against God, but I'm going to do it anyway. In which case even though what we are doing isn't a sin, our attitude and motivation is.

In the same way, if we doubt whether or not it's right to do something, and we do it anyway, we are sinning (v.23). If we're not sure that something is a sin, we're still not persuaded that it's right, and we're still doing something we think might be wrong. Often we do this because we see others doing it, we really want to, or we don't want others to make fun of us, but it's still wrong. Anything we do that's not done in love and obedience out of a heart desire for the glory of God is sin. All the good works an unbeliever does are not good in God's eyes because they are never done for the above reason. They can't be because the unbeliever is at war with God. But also for the Christian anything he does that's not done primarily for the above reasons is sin. Everything we do must be done to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31); every thought we think must be taken captive for Christ (2 Cor. 10:5); the desire of our heart should be to glorify Him.

questions
1. Why do we need to be persuaded that what we are doing is right?
2. What is our primary purpose in life?

praise pray Ps. 65C:1-6
1. Pray that you would do all to the glory of God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.