

The Things We Believe
“Holding One Day Above Another”
Wednesday, October 7, 2020

- There are those in the Christian Faith that have the conviction that it is wrong to celebrate Holidays such as Christmas and Easter and even birthdays!
- The basic belief stems from a scripture in Romans 14:5 that says: “One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.”
- When read in other translations it says: “ In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable.”

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- So Paul is saying that we are not to get into strife and break relationships over this but rather respect each other’s opinion!
 - While that is obviously the made point, let’s look at why this original thought, of no Holiday and birthday celebrations, exist in people’s mind in the first place!
 - Remember our statement as we started this series! Many of these thoughts are “no big deal” but the technique of interpretation of scripture is “a really big deal!”
- I. First it’s important to realize Paul is talking about “opinions” of believers according to the context of what was said.

Romans 14:1-6 (TPT)

1 Offer an open hand of fellowship to welcome every true believer, even though their faith may be weak and immature. And refuse to engage in debates with them concerning nothing more than opinions. 2 For example, one believer has no problem with eating all kinds of food, but another with weaker faith will eat only vegetables. 3 The one who eats freely shouldn't judge and look down on the one who eats only vegetables. And the vegetarian must not judge and look down on the one who eats everything. Remember, God has welcomed him and taken him as his partner. 4 Who do you think you are to sit in judgment of someone else's household servant? His own master is the one to evaluate whether he succeeds or fails. And God's servants will succeed, for God's power supports them and enables them to stand. 5 In the same way, one person regards a certain day as more sacred than another, and another person regards them all alike. There is nothing wrong with having different personal convictions about such matters. 6 For the person who observes one day as especially sacred does it to honor the Lord. And the same is true regarding what a person eats. The one who eats everything eats to honor the Lord, because he gives thanks to God, and the one who has a special diet does it to honor the Lord, and he also gives thanks to God.

- A. How much strife could be averted if we lived according to Paul's admonition!
 - 1. Fellowship with believers who may approach their faith a little different than you!
 - 2. Be respectful of people with different "convictions" than you! (remember, a conviction is very strong)
- B. But let's remember the initial point of our discussion! "Is one day more important than another?"

- II. This discussion is abundantly more important than whether or not you celebrate holidays or birthdays!
 - A. This discussion goes to the “core” of the work of Christ and His work of redemption!
 - 1. There may be indications in the context here and other writings of Paul that he is continuing to teach and instruct the Early Church concerning this new Christian Faith!
 - 2. Telling believers how everything has changed after Jesus FULFILLED THE LAW!

Colossians 2:14-16 (NLT)

14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. 16 So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

- 3. He often indicates that whatever the purpose of these laws and requirements were they were NOT done away with...they were fulfilled and completed in Christ!!!
- 4. These laws, statutes and regulations had their purpose! To “keep” us until redemption could come and “wipe away” the affects of sin! Sin always has and always will “bring forth death;” however, death was nailed to Jesus’ cross!

Galatians 4:9-10 (NLT)

9 So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?

10 You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.

- B. An interesting observation! The 4th Commandment is the only one NOT restated in scripture in other places!

Exodus 20:8 (NLT)

8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

1. Why is that? All others are restated in various ways under the New Covenant!
2. Remember, Jesus even stated, "The law says don't commit murder, but I say don't even hate!"
3. He said its not about adultery but about lust!
4. What is said about "The Sabbath?"

Hebrews 4:1-6 (TPT)

Now God has offered to us the same promise of entering into his realm of resting in confident faith. So we must be extremely careful to ensure that we all embrace the fullness of that promise and not fail to experience it. 2 For we have heard the good news of deliverance just as they did, yet they didn't join their faith with the Word. Instead, what they heard didn't affect them deeply, for they doubted. 3 For those of us who believe, faith activates the promise and we experience the realm of confident rest! For he has said, I was grieved with them and made a solemn oath, 'They will never enter into the calming rest of my Spirit.' 'God's works have all been completed from the foundation of the world, 4 for it says in the Scriptures, and on the seventh day God rested from all his works. 5 And again, as stated before, They will never enter into my calming place of rest. 6 Those who first heard the good news of deliverance failed to enter into that realm of faith's-rest because of their unbelieving hearts. Yet the fact remains that we still

have the opportunity to enter into the faith-rest life and experience the fulfillment of the promise!

C. So, what does all of this mean? What does this have to do with “one day being honored above another?”

1. Nothing really...it's the principle of interpretation that is of utmost importance!
2. What Paul was saying in Romans 14 was that God through Christ has fulfilled the Feast Days and they point to and explain His redemption!
3. They are all important and have been fulfilled and we shouldn't squabble over “days!”
4. The writer of Hebrews is saying it's not about observing the Sabbath because we can all enter into the rest from sin because of our redemption!
5. Jesus said this:

Mark 2:27 (NLT)

27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for the sake of people, and not people for the Sabbath.