

God's Righteousness at Work VIII

"Between Freedom and Responsibility"

Romans 14:13-23

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on March 12, 2017

Entering In:

Two of your friends are arguing whether they can or cannot watch the movie, "The Shack."

What would you say to help them come to an agreement?

[The movie is based on a Christian novel by Paul Young where an African American woman portrays God the Father.]

1. The Greek word, (πρόσκομμα, *proskomma*), translated "stumbling block," refers to an object in the road that causes one to stumble. The word, (σκάνδαλον *skandalon*), translated "obstacle," refers to a snare used to catch animals.

Give an example of how we might put a stumbling block and/or an obstacle in a brother's way.

2. With what two *therefore* statements does Paul exhort us ("Let us...")?

A. (verse 13):

B. (verse 19):

On what important truth does Paul base his exhortations (vv.12, 18)?

A.

B.

What could happen if we do not take Paul's exhortations to heart (vv.15, 21)?

A.

B.

3. Does Paul mean that everything in nature is "clean" or morally neutral in verses 14 and 20?

Why or why not?

Explain how Jesus fulfilled the law so that we are free from the ceremonial law. (cf. Matt. 5:17; Romans 8:2)

4. In verse 15, what does the word "destroy" (ἀπόλλυμι, *apollumi*) mean?

Give an example how we may "destroy" our brothers and sisters in worship, fellowship, or even prayer.

5. What is the second reason not to judge our brother mentioned in the sermon?

Why is the kingdom of God more important than any non-essential issues?

Explain how we enjoy (or receive) the three benefits of belonging to God's kingdom. (cf. Romans 5:1-2)

A. Righteousness

B. Peace

C. Joy

What is God's calling for you for the kingdom of God?

6. Do you think it is possible for mature Christians both to disagree and to be acceptable to God (verse 18)? Why or why not?

7. To what law is Jesus referring when he says, "*I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished*" (Matthew 5:18).

Do you think the fourth Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Ex. 20:8), is a ceremonial law or moral law? Why or why not?

8. List some of the issues that concern us today that you think should be considered *non-essential*. Explain why you think they are *disputable matters*.

How are these issues affecting our congregation?

What must you do, or stop doing, in order to promote *peace and mutual edification* in our church?

9. How does Christian freedom relate to Christian responsibility?

To what will you give priority, freedom or responsibility, so that someone may be saved (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

What truths about God have you learned from this passage?

Living It Out:

Pray for God's help to be obedient to the exhortations given to us in this chapter.

