

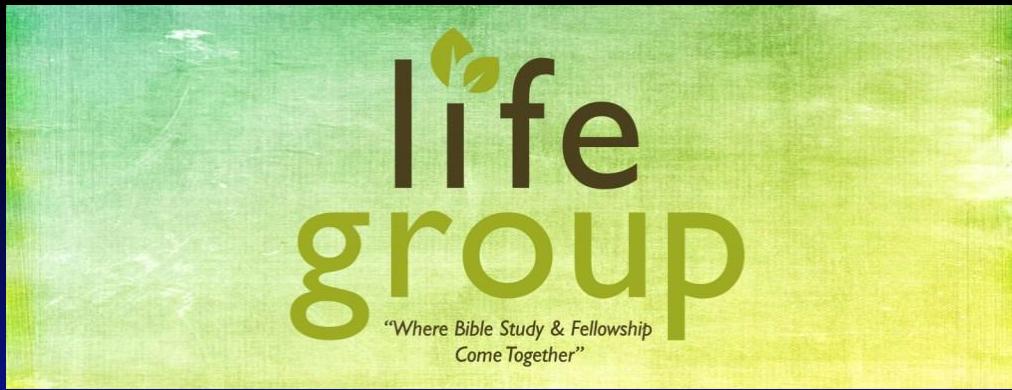
Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



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**Let's Prepare Our Hearts to Worship
our HOLY and AWESOME GOD**



LIFE Group ...

We are in an Equipping Series (see Ephesians 4:11-16) that is focused on the Gospel of Christ.

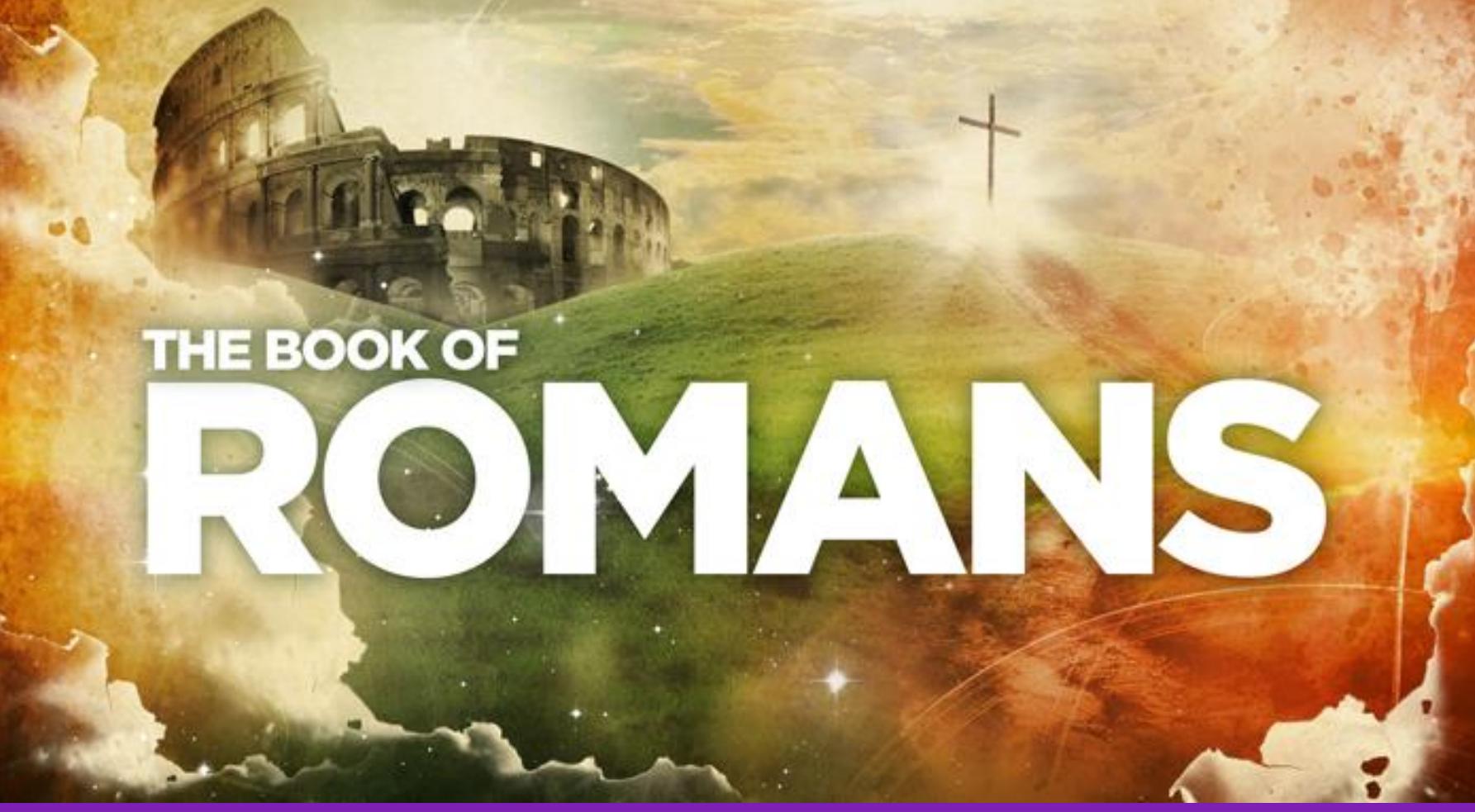
We'll be Equipped in the Gospel, know it & sharing it
For the next several weeks ...

6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings

Now let's Learn from God's Holy Word →



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THE BOOK OF
ROMANS

The Quirky Christians → Accept Them

Romans 14

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but NOT for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak in faith eats vegetables only. ³ The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the LORD is able to make him stand.

The Quirky Christians → Accept Them

Romans 14

⁵ One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. **⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the LORD, and he who eats, does so for the LORD, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the LORD he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.** **⁷ For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;** **⁸ for if we live, we live for the LORD, or if we die, we die for the LORD; therefore whether we live or die, we are the LORD's.** **⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be LORD both of the dead and of the living.**

The Quirky Christians → Accept Them

Romans 14

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For it is written,

“As I live”, says the LORD, ‘every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.’”

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

The Quirky Christians → Accept Them

Romans 14

¹³Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. ¹⁴I know and am convinced in the LORD Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.¹⁵ For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. ¹⁶Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; ¹⁷for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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Romans 14

18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then, we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things, indeed, are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 It is good NOT to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

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Let's look back at where we've come from and what we've learned so far

1. The Great Foundational Doctrines of the Faith

- a. God's Salvation revealed in the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17)
- b. God is Creator (Romans 1:18-22)
- c. Humans are fully sinful and depraved and due God's Wrath (Romans 1:18-3:31)
- d. Forgiveness, Redemption, Justification by Faith in Christ as a Free Gift from God (Romans 3-5)
- e. Sanctification, Growing in Christlikeness until Christ takes us home (Romans 6-8)

2. Israel is still a part of God's Overall Plan of Redemption (Rom 9-11)

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- 3. Our personal responsibility of personal, individual Faith in Christ as fully surrendered, growing and transforming disciples of Christ → Our Personal Relationship with God and His Word (Romans 12:1-2)**
- 4. Our Relationship to our fellow believers in our local church family, within the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-21)**
- 5. Our Relationship to Government and God's Ideal of Government (Romans 13:1-7)**
- 6. Our Relationship to people around us that may be outside of Christ, how we are to deal with our past and the blatantly sinful world around us (Romans 13:8-14)**

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- 1. Paul is talking about Real, Born Again, Christians, not the unsaved or someone who might be interested in following Christ, but isn't genuinely saved yet.**
- 2. Paul is NOT discussing about Pagan-Rooted Traditions. How we are to deal with that is CONSISTENTLY TAUGHT through the Old Testament AND in the Gospels, Acts, 1 Cor. 8 & 10, and Rev. 2 & 3**

Illustration about “mindless” traditions

→ The “Cut” Ham in a Large Oven . . .

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Illustration about “mindless” traditions

→ The “Cut” Ham in a Large Oven . . .

Where do your “traditions” come from and WHY?



We have the MIND of Christ - 1 Corinthians 2:16

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a SOUND MIND. 2 Timothy 1:7

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TAUGHT through the Old Testament AND in the
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Illustration about “mindless” traditions

→ The “Cut” Ham in a Large Oven . . .

3. How are we to deal with folks that disagree with our
“Christian” Sacred Opinions about things?
(again, these are those “neutral” opinions about
kinda/maybe “faith” kinds of things ...)

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3. How are we to deal with folks that disagree with our “Christian” Sacred Opinions about things?

Bed-Rock Doctrines fully established as Christian, New Covenant Doctrines are what **ALL** of us are to agree upon, together as a church, fully surrender to, and holding-fast to.

But, Paul is talking about those “**GREY**” areas of faith that fall in between the cracks of what we call “**opinions**” about various topics and things that God has **NOT** Prescribed for all Christians to do, follow, obey, etc. in the **New Covenant in Christ** (in the Messiah) [Jer. 31:31-33 / Hebrews 7:12]

- a. What about how we view what we are supposed to eat or what we are **NOT** to eat? (in the New Covenant in Christ) [vv. 1-4]
- b. What about how we view individual days of the week? (in the New Covenant in Christ) [vv. 5-6] : aren’t these still contentions today?

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4. When Paul talks about “Judging” in this context ... what is his focus?

Answer: Contempt, “looking down upon others” who have “weak faith”, or judging others because they aren’t as “restrictive” as we are regarding [Fill in the Blank]

5. Who owns each, individual, Born Again, Christian? Then that is how we are to treat each other. “So then, each one of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Rom. 14:12)

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6. Keep your Christian, “Sacred” Opinions to yourself – don’t PUSH them onto others . . . In your current growth-stage in Christ, right now, you could actually be incorrect about them. But, doesn’t that seem to contradict verses 13-20? (Rom. 14:13-23) [Illustration dinner at their home?]

7. What does Paul mean by “whatever is not from Faith is sin”? Answer: We are to Live by Faith in God and His Word, Following Christ in a Surrendered, Trusting Relationship. Anything less than that is “doubtful” - thus sinful - going against what you believe God’s Word says, or at least, what you understand God’s Word to say. BUT WHAT IF I BELIEVE LIES?

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Conclusion

1. We must accept into our assembly those who are Genuinely Born Again in Christ.
2. We must accept them even if their “Faith” understandings are different than ours and/or immature from ours. QUIRKY
3. We must find ways of accommodation and be sensitive, personally, with most folks as we can, but we cannot allow immature faith to rule our assembly.
4. We must teach folks to keep their Quirky “beliefs” to themselves and not FORCE them on the rest of us. We cannot leave them bound by false beliefs, if that is the case. (Acts 18:24-28)

**See y'all Next Time we Gather...
@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week**



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