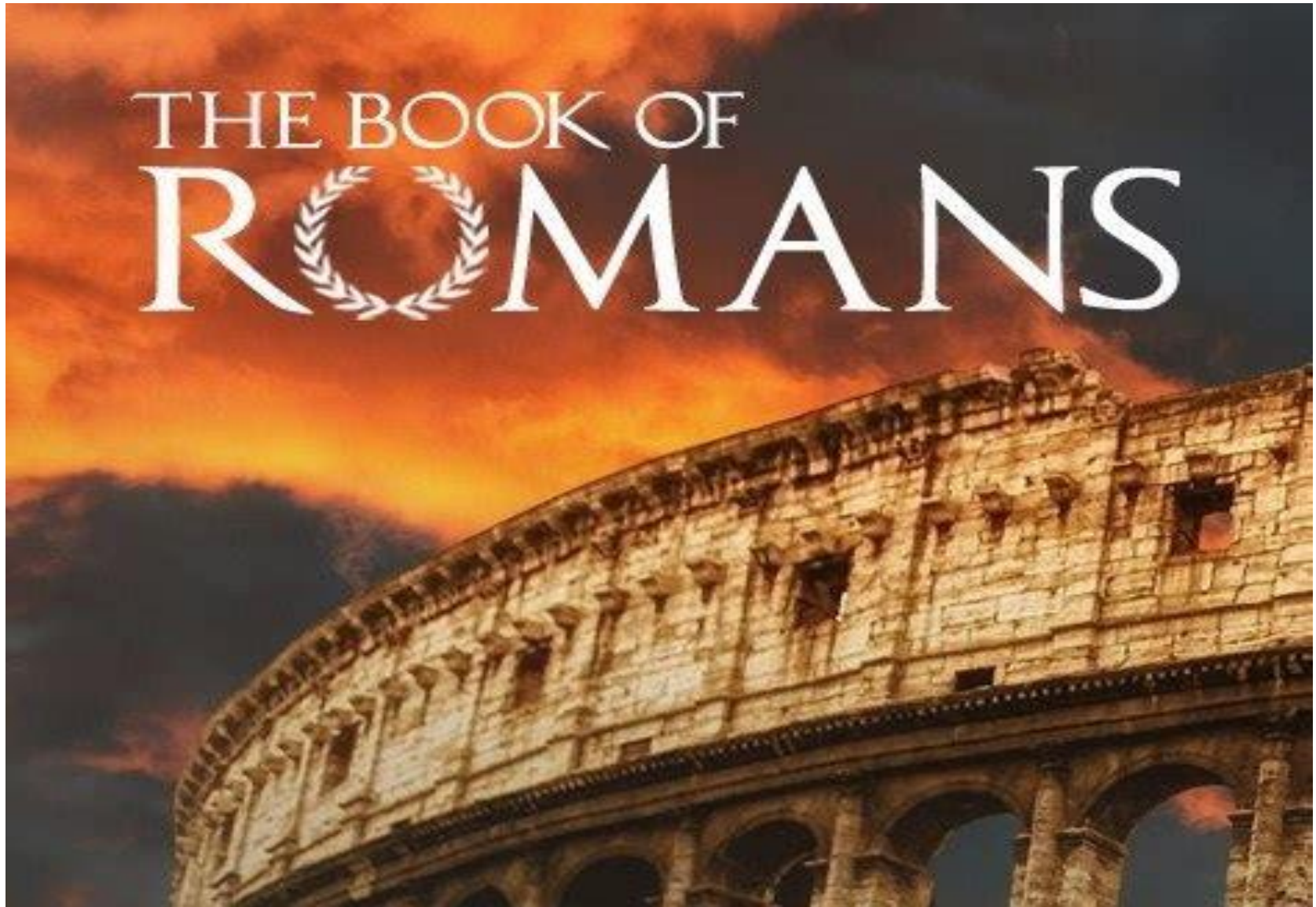


Rom 14:5-6 The Believer and Special Days



Key Points from Rom 14:1-4*



- The **weak believer** was the one who had associated what we would call a neutral thing (i.e. meat) with an idol.
- The **strong believer** was the one who said it's only a thing (i.e. meat).
- The question is how are these two believers to relate to one another?

* McCalley

¹ Now, the one being weak in the faith, [you] receive,
not for passing judgment on [his] reasonings

Interlinear



Now

it's a special interest on the part
of the receiver- to welcome!

[you]
receive

[strong believer]

the one

[weak believer]

being
weak in
"the faith"

the body of
truth given
by the
apostles

So the one being weak is:*

- not strong in his beliefs
- not rooted and grounded in "the faith"
- but he is not to be criticized for it

Weak in the faith vs weak in faith*

- The first is objective – compared to objective truth of "the faith"
- The second is subjective - did not believe God's Word very well
- The weak believer is unconvinced by the Word of God concerning meat sacrificed to idols

¹ Now, the one being weak in the faith, [you] receive,
not for passing judgment on [his] reasonings Interlinear



[but]

[you]
receive
[strong believer]

not
for

passing
judgment

on [his]
reasonings/
opinions

passing judgment on [weak believer] reasonings/opinions

- [not to be] a critical analysis of his inward reasonings Wuest
- The weak believers' opinions or reasonings are most often wrong* - Rom 1:21b - became futile in their speculations
- So the weak believer had the wrong opinions about what he was eating*
- We are to accept the person, but not the opinion* *McCalley

² One man indeed [Gr. *men*] believes to eat all things,
but [Gr. *de*] the one being weak eats vegetables Interlinear



point: one man – in context the strong believer

- believers - *pisteuō* - to be persuaded of - continuously
to eat all [*pas*] things

counterpoint: but [*de*] the one – in context the weak believer

- being weak - *astheneō* - to doubt, to hesitate, to vacillate
present tense – continuous action

eats vegetables

- The weak believer was a product of an inadequate understanding of God's Word and an over-sensitized conscience.

Wuest

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.



1st - The one who eats

is not to regard with contempt - *exoutheneō* - to make of no account, to regard as nothing, to despise utterly

- Luke 23:11a And Herod, with his soldiers, treated Him [Jesus] with contempt and mocked Him...

the one who does not eat – the weak brother

2nd - the one who does not eat

is not to judge – *krinō* - to judge in the sense of to criticize

- John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

the one who eats – the strong brother

- Next, more teaching about the strong believer

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.



for God has received Him

Interlinear

- from the verse we can see that this is speaking about **the strong** brother

received - *proslambanōto* - take to oneself: middle voice: signifying a special interest on the part of the receiver [God] and aorist tense

- The aorist points to a definite event when he believed on Christ
- This is what **the weak** believer is to understand about the strong believer

Wuest

4a Who are you the one judging a household servant belonging to another? To his own master he stands or falls.

Interlinear



who are you – in context the weak believer

[the one] judging - *krinō* - to judge in the sense of to criticize
(again this is a continuous action)

a household servant - *oikétēs* - a domestic servant

1 Pet 2:18a Servants, be submissive to your masters

belonging to another - *allotrios* - belonging to another

[i.e. not yours but God's servant]

to his own master he stands or falls

master – *kyrios* - a lord, one who exercises power

he stands - *stēkō* - figuratively, where the context indicates
the meaning “standeth upright” Vine

or [he] falls - *piptō* - in falling morally or spiritually

^{4b} and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.



and he will stand

will stand - *histēmi* - “to be made to stand” – future tense

- Paul assures the weaker brother that the stronger brother would stand approved by God

for the Lord is able to make him stand

- for the Lord – the Lord is one performing the action
- is able - *dynateō* - to be mighty, to show oneself powerful
- to make him stand - *histēmi* - to cause to stand
[aorist, an event]
- This is a declaration of the Lord’s power in making the believer stand

Today's Verses



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.

Outline Rom 14:4 -12*



Principle of Privacy

14:4

- key idea: you belong to the Lord

Principle of Individuality

14:5

- key idea: be fully convinced of what you believe

Principle of Motivation

14:6-9

- key idea: whatever you do, your motivation needs to be what is right [for the Lord]

Principle of Judgment

14:10-12

- key idea: God's judgment is private and individual

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.



- The first sentence in this verse is another *men- de* construction [point vs. counterpoint]

point: One person regards one day above another

one person – the weak believer in context

regards - *krinō* - signifies "to separate, choose;" then, to approve, esteem - continually regarding

one day above another [day] - above – lit: as better than

- ^{9b} how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things --- to be enslaved all over again?
- ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years.
- ¹¹ I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

Gal 4:9b-11

⁵ One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.



counterpoint: another regards every day alike

another - the stronger believer in context

regards – same before: continually regarding or esteeming

every day alike [sacred]

- Ps 118:24 This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Ps145:2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

⁵ One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.



each person – either a weak or a strong believer

must be fully convinced – *plērophoreō* - to be fully convinced or assured, to be persuaded

- present tense – so he is to be continually convinced
- Rom 4:21 and being **fully assured** that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.
- Next we have a qualification of his assurance

in his own mind – lit: in his own personal mind Wuest

- The idea that by observing **a certain day**, we please God more than we would if we did not, is quite common.

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.



he who observes - the weak believer in context

observe - *phroneō* - to think, set the mind on, implying moral interest and reflection

the day – what does this mean?

- In Scripture we see this could refer to a Jewish Sabbath or some Jewish holiday
- But Paul teaches about the day as follows:
- Col 2:16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or **in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.**
- If you are going to observe **the day** it should be as follows:

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.



observes it [the day] “for the Lord”

- So Paul is teaching that the weak believer **may observe** some religious day but it should be:
- with reference to the Lord Wuest
- So the focus should be **on the Lord** as we observe **the day**
- So is the “weak brother” wrong when he observes the **day?**
- Paul will answer this question in the following verses

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.



Now what about **what we eat**?

and he who eats, does so “for the Lord”

- note that Paul switches to the **strong believer**
- again: it is with reference to the Lord
- So our focus should be **on the Lord** as we eat [all things]
- So is the “strong brother” right when he eats [all things]
- Paul will answer this question in the following verses

for he gives thanks to God

- The “strong believer” is also thanking God for what he eats

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.



Now back to the weak believer:

and he who eats **not** [vegetarian], “for the Lord” he does **not** eat,

- So the focus should be **on the Lord** as he eats **not**
- So is the “weak believer” wrong when he eats **not**
- Paul will answer this question in the following verses **and gives thanks to God**
- The “weak believer” is also thanking God for when he eats **not**

Final Thoughts



Paul's focus in Rom 14:1-6 is on how should we **respond to fellow believers** when we have differences:

- welcome him [weak in faith] into your fellowship
- do not criticize his opinions or pass judgment on him
- one man's faith permits him to eat all things
- another man's faith permits him to eat only vegetables
- neither man is to criticize or judge the other - God accepts Him
- who are you to pass judgment on another's household servant
- one man esteems one day as better than another,
- while another man esteems all days alike [sacred].
- we observe a day or not observe it in honor of the Lord
- also we eat or not eat in honor of the Lord and give thanks to

Final Thoughts*



- God reserves the right to correct and direct the life of His own child.
- Much hurtful criticism might be avoided if Christians would only believe this.
- Trust Him to do with His own child what He purposes to do.
- God is the master before whom alone the servant will stand or fall.
- Due regard for the conscience and liberty of others is twofold:
 - On the one hand, let the strong be charitable [loving] toward the weak.
 - On the other hand, let the weak desist [stop] from judgment of the strong.
 - The result will be a mutual fellowship and an exercise of all the liberties of grace.