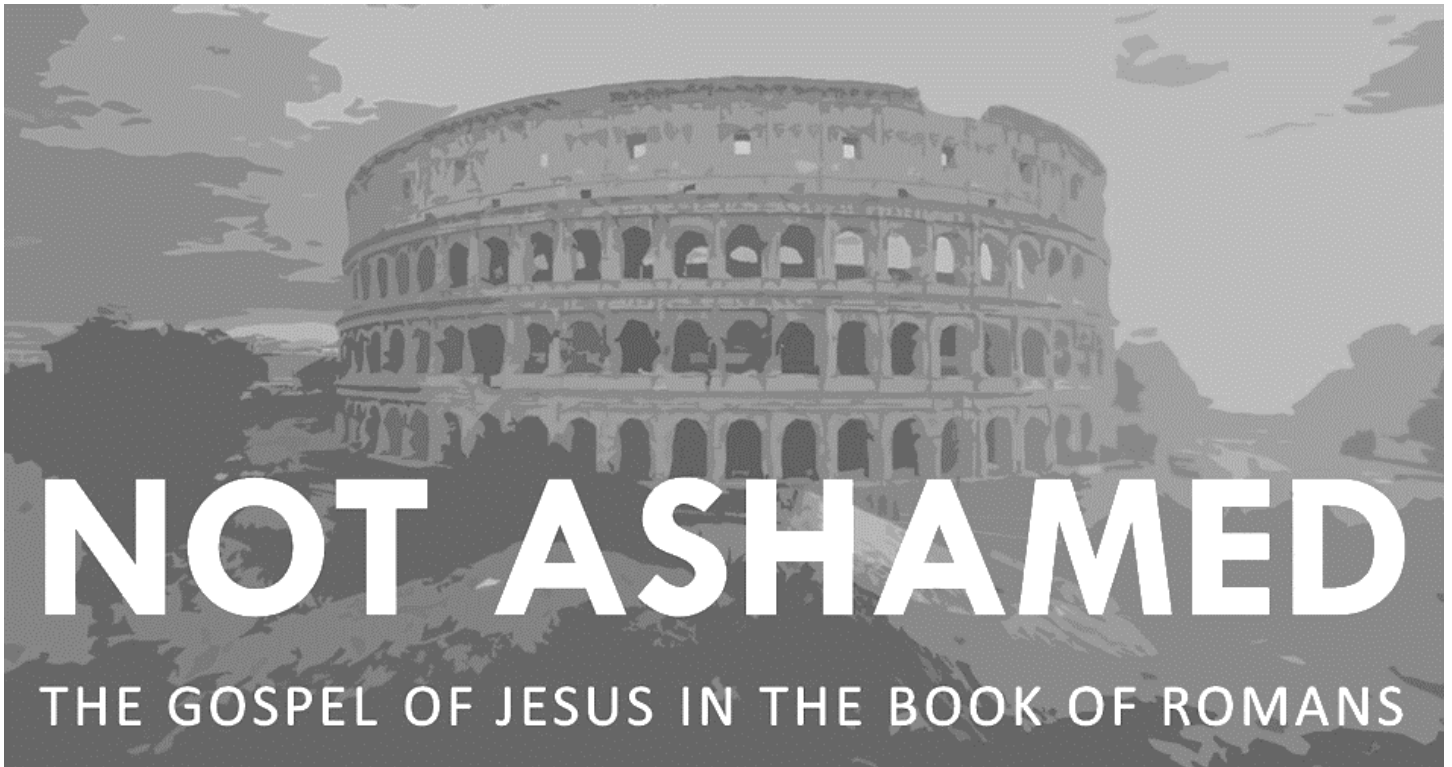




ROMANS 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we 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.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? 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 confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

(Romans 14:1-12)

Introduction

- Paul assumed that Christians (noun) would live distinctly “Christian” (adjective) lives.
- Living a distinctly “Christian” life demands that we not “_____” with other believers over “_____” (Romans 14:1, Jude 1:3).

“Exactly what the problem was with which Paul is dealing in this section is not clear. There has been interminable discussion about it, and nothing like a consensus has been attained ... The arguments are endless, but no one has been able to come up with convincing evidence for any one position. It is best to accept the fact that we are ignorant of the precise situation and simply to consider what Paul says.” (Leon Morris)

Challenges in Interpretation

- The situation in Rome was different than the situations in _____ and _____ (Galatians 1:6-10, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- Our culture has a warped view of truth and morality in which the only forgivable sins are insisting on _____ truth or _____ another person.
- Many evangelical churches have a warped view of Matthew 7:1-6 in which they _____ anyone from passing any kind of _____ on any issue.

The Parties

- “The _____” were most likely Jewish Christians who thought believers should continue observing the Old Covenant dietary laws and the Old Covenant religious calendar to honor the Lord.
- “The _____” were most likely Gentile Christians who insisted that believers are not under the law, but under grace, which means we do not have to observe what Christ has fulfilled.

A “Christian” Life

- A distinctly “Christian” life requires a right view of _____ (Romans 14:2-4).
- A distinctly “Christian” life is one lived for the _____ of God (Romans 14:5-9).
- A distinctly “Christian” life keeps an eye to the final _____ (Romans 15:10-12).