

IMPACT

11 SEPTEMBER 2016

Volume XLI No. 35

A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia Containing Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

Our Memory Verse

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.
19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. —Romans 14:17-19



STRAIGHT FROM THE BELOVED PASTOR'S HEART

BOOK OF ROMANS CHAPTER 14 **Lesson No. 32 THE 12 LESSONS ON CONTROVERSIES AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AS AN EKKLESIA OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

How do we really differ as God's people from the cults and false religions? Where is our faith based from and what does our faith teach us? Romans 14 gives us insights by using examples of some controversies among the early believers. It is best for us now in our day to take heed and learn from them.

MESSAGE

1. The ekklesia is the only place to teach and establish believers in the faith (v.1). Other institutions like home and government are not designed by God to facilitate spiritual growth and maturity. Know where you belong and be faithful to our ekklesia. Everyone even those who are weak in the faith is welcome to the ekklesia family.
2. Our fellowship with one another should not be based on what we eat or not but it must be always according to the will of God (vv. 2-3).
3. We have no right to judge others especially our own brothers and sisters in Christ (v.4). God alone is our Judge. He hates it when we view ourselves as righteous judge of others that we fail to see who we are really before Him.

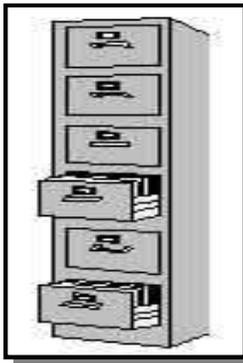
4. We should be good stewards of time and life (vv.5-6). Our life and time are precious and priceless gifts from God and that we are admonished by the Word of God to never waste and squander them. For what has been lost cannot be returned anymore. Let us be careful and mindful of our time and every opportunity accorded us to serve and witness for Christ.

5. The Lord and His will should always govern our thoughts, feelings and actions (vv. 7-8). We could not care less going about our life without the presence of the Lord and knowing His will in our lives. For we all—

- 5.1. Live unto the Lord for without Him, we can do nothing (Rom. 12:1-2).
- 5.2. Die unto the Lord— "I have kept the faith."
- 5.3. Are the Lord's—we all belong to God. We are just waiting for His return.

6. The reason for Christ's death, burial and resurrection is to declare His lordship (vv.9-11; Phil. 2:9-11).





The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

SEPTEMBER 11	EZEK 34:11-16
SEPTEMBER 12	PSALM 103:1-8
SEPTEMBER 13	LUKE 10:38-42
SEPTEMBER 14	1 TIM 1:15-17
SEPTEMBER 15	COL 3:8-17
SEPTEMBER 16	ROM 6:1-14
SEPTEMBER 17	1 SAM 24:1-10

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

Contd. from p. 1

7. The Lord Jesus as Lord of our lives teaches us that (vv.10-12):

- 7.1. We shall all face God's judgment (v.10).
- 7.2. We are all accountable (v.12).

8. The best judgment: To take heed among ourselves not to be a stumblingblock (v.13). Do not be a hindrance to somebody's growth and maturity. Or, in which we cause someone to sin.

9. Relationship with believers should always be governed by charity and understanding (vv. 14-15). In the early church, controversies usually come between the Jews and the Gentiles in which the Jews want the Gentiles to live on certain rules determined by their observance of Mosaic laws (1 Cor. 8:11-13).

10. Certain rules are good but when we become judgmental and discriminatory, then these rules become evil. Let therefore righteousness, peace and joy reign among us. For as long as we do certain things to serve the Lord and to give Him honor and glory, then we are acceptable to God and approved of men (vv. 16-18).

11. Controversies and arguments do not edify the believers (vv. 19-21). There are some Pastors and believers who are always looking for controversies to argue with and malign others. The Lord is telling us to be careful.

12. Our faith in Christ should make us stronger (vv.19-23). It should make us enjoy the blessings of

God. It should makes us careful to offend the weak; and the weak to remain weak and offended. Our faith in Christ should teach us the love, patience, joy and righteousness of Christ— "whose we are, and whom we serve."

—*BMA's Messages, 09.11.16*

-000-000-

Matthew Henry on Romans 14

As we tender the reputation of the good we profess and practice, let us so order it that it may not be evil spoken of. Secondly, Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God, Rom. 14:22. It is not meant of justifying faith (that must not be hid, but manifested by our works), but of a knowledge and persuasion of our Christian liberty in things disputed. "Hast thou clearness in such a particular? Art thou satisfied that thou mayest eat all meats, and observe all days (except the Lord's day) alike? Have it to thyself, that is, enjoy the comfort of it in thy own bosom, and do not trouble others by the imprudent use of it, when it might give offence, and cause thy weak brother to stumble and fall." In these indifferent things, though we must never contradict our persuasion, yet we may sometimes conceal it, when the avowing of it will do more hurt than good. Have it to thyself—a rule to thyself (not to be imposed upon others, or made a rule to them), or a rejoicing to thyself. Clearness in doubtful matters contributes very much to our comfortable walking, as it frees us from those scruples, jealousies, and suspicions, which those who have not such clearness are entangled in endlessly. Compare Gal. 6:4; Let every man prove his own work, that is, bring it to the touchstone of the word and try it by that so exactly as to be well satisfied in what he does; and then he shall have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. Paul had faith in these things: I am persuaded that there is nothing unclean of itself; but he had it to himself, so as not to use his liberty to the offence of others.