

GOALS WORTHY OF OUR PURSUIT

Romans 14:19-23

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has defined the Kingdom of God *vs. 17*
 - 1) *"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink;"*
 - 2) *"but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"*

- B. These are the important things *vs. 18*
 - 1) *"For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable [well pleasing] to God..."*
 - 2) *"and approved of men"*

- C. Paul encourages the Romans to seek important goals to achieve.
 - 1) Special diets are not important
 - 2) Not having special diets and days are of relative unimportance to the church.

- I. Pursue Peace And Edification *verse 19*
 - A. *"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace,"*
 - 1) *"follow after"* = διωκω = "to pursue after as flying enemies", "pursue in order to overtake"
 - 2) *"peace"* = ειρηνη = "at rest", "the end of and the absence of strife"

 - B. *"and things wherewith one may edify another"*
 - 1) *"And the things which belong to..."*
 - 2) *"edify"* = οικοδομησ = "the process of building a house, the process is incomplete and on going"

II. Do Not Pursue Things That Destroy verse 20

A. *"For meat destroy not the work of God"*

- 1) "meat" = βρωμα = "whatever is eaten", "solid food"
- 2) "destroy" = καταλυω = "to loosen down", "to disunite the parts of anything"
- 3) "work" = εργον = "the thing accomplished by energy"
- 4) "Do not, for the sake of food, be tearing down God's work" Mon.

B. *"All things indeed are pure"*

- 1) "pure" = καθαρος = "free from everything that would change or corrupt the nature of the subject"
- 2) "All food, in the strictest sense, is pure"

C. *"but it is evil for that man who eateth with offense"*

- 1) "offense" = προσκομμα = "the object that one strikes against and stumbles"
- 2) "evil" = κακος = "bad of every sort"
- 3) "But it is wrong for anyone to make others fall by what one eats."

III. The Ideal Attitude For Them To Pursue verse 21

A. *"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine nor any thing."*

- 1) "flesh" = κρεας = "dead meat"
- 2) "wine" = οινος = "the fermented juice of the grape"
- 3) "We should be willing to be both vegetarians and teetotalers" Phi.

B. *"...whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."*

- 1) "stumbleth" = προσκοπτω = "to strike the foot against anything"
- 2) "whereby thy brother is caused to stumble"

IV. Pursue A Conscience Made Good By Faith verse 22

A. *"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God"*

- 1) "Do you have faith [that nothing is unclean]?"
- 2) "Keep it for thine own comfort before God" Con.

B. *"Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth."*

- 1) "happy" = μακαριος = "confidently joyous"
- 2) "condemneth" = κρινω = "to judge"
- 3) "alloweth" = δοκιμαζω = "to approve of after careful examination"
- 4) "Happy the person who has no qualms of conscience in what he decides to do in this matter."

C. *"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat,"*

- 1) "doubteth" = διακρινω = "to be in strife with one's self", "hesitate", "waver"
- 2) "damned" = κατακρινω = "to give judgment against"
- 3) "Yet if a man eats meat with an uneasy conscience about it, you may be sure he is wrong to do so."

D. *"because he eateth not of faith"*

- 1) "For he is not following his convictions"
- 2) "It was not faith that motivated him to eat"

E. *"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"*

- 1) "Anything that does not rest on one's convictions is wrong"
- 2) "When we act apart from our faith we sin"

