

## **Selected Reading**

*What does abiding in Christ require? Many things — and we will notice a few of them. We must **think** of Him, or exercise the *intellect* upon Him. As we are capable of thinking, and have the power of fixing our thoughts upon an object — we must make Christ the *great object of our thoughts*, and think of Him. That we *think* of Christ so little, so seldom — is one great reason why we *enjoy* Christ so little.*

Beloved, we should think . . .  
of His glorious person;  
of His free and abounding grace;  
of His infinite and everlasting merit;  
of His deep and tender sympathy;  
of His authority and unlimited dominion;  
and of His eternal and changeless love!

We should think. . .  
of what He was in *glory*;  
of what He became on *earth*;  
of what He *did* while here below;  
of what He *suffered* on our behalf; and  
of what He is *now doing* at the right hand of God.

We should think of . . .  
His nature,  
His offices,  
His relations, and  
His glorious second advent!

Oh, how much there is in Jesus to occupy our *thoughts*, and feast our *souls*! Is it not astonishing that we do not think of Him more? Never, never, shall we enjoy deep spirituality; or rise above our doubts and fears; or rejoice in God; or be very useful among our fellow-men — unless we think of Christ more!

By James Smith (1859)

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Hebrews 12:1-3

Song #156 ~ Rock of Ages

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 56:1-13

Song #151 ~ The Solid Rock

Scripture Reading: Psalm 57:1-11

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 14:5-6

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #214 ~ Jesus, Thank You

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

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## Text: Romans 14:5-6

**Theme:** Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) For conscience sake be fully convinced in your mind (v. 5).

A. What does it look like to be fully convinced?

1. Concerning ceremonial and civil law, Paul does not leave room for preferences. Each person must be fully convinced in what he does.
2. How do you treat the Lord's Day? Are you fully convinced that your plans for today are pleasing in God's sight?

B. What are some *wrong* ways that a Christian may become convinced in his mind?

1. Pragmatism ~ answers the question "what works?" (cf. 2 Sam. 6:3-9; Josh. 7:2-5).
2. Only listening to advise when it agrees with my position.
3. Not taking into account the full counsel of God from His Word. Only using verses that we think agree with our position and disregarding passages that clearly contradict our viewpoint (cf. Matt. 7:1 & 1 Cor. 5:12-13).

C. What does it mean to be convinced in your mind?

1. The conscience can be illustrated by a courtroom setting. But instead of three different parties, *you* act as judge, defendant, and prosecutor (cf. Rom. 2:15). You can easily justify any position—you may even use scripture. But there is one fact you cannot get around—you will give an account to God (cf. Rom. 14:12). This is why Paul can say that the one who does not condemn himself in what he approves is happy (Rom. 14:22).

2. You must diligently study God's Word (Psalm 119:9-11). Being approved by your conscience does not mean that you can do whatever you want to do. Instead, you must diligently study God's Word because you will give an account (cf. Rom. 14:12).

3. After Elizabeth Bunyan's appeal to the judges to release John Bunyan was rejected, she felt pity for them. "Not so much because they were so hard-hearted against me and my husband, but to think what a sad account such poor creatures will have to give at the coming of the Lord."

II) Give thanks to God in all things (v. 6).

A. Paul is addressing civil and ceremonial differences between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

1. Paul is likely referring to the observance of the Lord's Day and not feast days (note the general reference and the singular instead of the plural). Although, it could include "holy days" (cf. Col 2: 16).
2. The meat is probably a reference to kosher meat not meat offered to idols (note Paul's reference to vegetables in verse 2).

B. Regardless of the exact issue in Rome, every Christian ought to be able give thanks to God (v. 6).

C. You should be able to give thanks because you are doing it for the Lord (v. 6).

1. What do you use as your guide to discern between different ceremonial or civil viewpoints? Does it even enter your mind that you should be doing it for the Lord? You belong to Him (v. 9). He is your Master. Everything you do is for Him.