

Study of Romans 14
by Marc Gravelle
marc@bondservantsofYeshua.ca

Romans 14:1-23

*Verse 1 Him that is weak in belief, in faith receive him, but **NOT** to doubtful disputations.*

Scripture tells us that YHVH has given each and every one of us a measure of belief, a measure of faith, but not everyone has cultivated that belief in such a way that it becomes as strong as an oak or a cedar tree, there are some people that are very weak and who can easily be fooled because of the lack of belief, faith, therefore those of us who profess to be strong in our belief in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and His only begotten Son, are to be very careful that our strong belief system **DOES NOT CAUSE** our weaker brothers to sin.

What does the phrase, **doubtful disputations**, mean? It means that those things that are not directly spoken of in the Torah, are **NOT** to become arguments between us, things such as, what is the best day to get married, how long should our tzitzit be, how long should our beards be, should we have beards, does Sabbath start at evening or at Sunset, because evening and sunset are **NOT** necessarily the same time of day. There are countless reasons why the people of Elohim argue to no avail. Here Paul admonishes us **NOT TO DO THAT**. Paul admonishes us to first see what we agree on and then build from there. We have been admonished by YHVH and **ALL** of His prophets, including Messiah, that we are **TO LOVE EACH OTHER**, therefore let us prove our love for each other **BY SEEKING OUT** what we agree on first, and then work on the areas where we have differences. If our **HEARTS** are filled with **THE LOVE** of Elohim for our fellow man, **THEN** we **WILL** indeed work out our differences.

Before we go into these next verses we have to establish one thing, and that is, when the Scriptures speak of *eating*, we must realize and understand that YHVH has **ALREADY TOLD US** in Scripture, in His Torah, what **FOOD IS**, and furthermore we must realize that there **IS NO SUCH THING** as **UNCLEAN FOOD**, for **IF IT IS UNCLEAN, IT IS NOT FOOD**. Therefore anytime we read about food or about eating anywhere in the Scriptures, we have to understand that YHVH has already **ESTABLISHED, DELINEATED AND CLASSIFIED** what He calls **FOOD FOR US**, and that **LIST** of **WHAT IS FOOD FOR US IS** found in *Leviticus 11*, His Torah. Furthermore we have to understand and realize that unless **IT LINES UP** with what YHVH has designated as **FOOD FOR US**, in His Torah, **THEN IT IS NOT FOOD**.

Now with that understanding let us go forward. *Verse 2 For one believes that he may eat **ALL** things: another, who is weak, eats herbs. 3 Let **NOT** him that eats despise him that eats **NOT**; and let **NOT** him who eats **NOT** judge him that eats: for Elohim has received him.* When Paul says in *verse 2 For one believes that he may eat all things* the **ALL THINGS** that Paul is speaking of, **IS ALL THINGS** that Elohim has **DESIGNATED AS FOOD** and **NOTHING ELSE**. Here we have to realize that Paul is telling us that **THE ONLY OPINION THAT COUNTS IS** YHVH's opinion and **NOT OURS**. If a brother or sister in YHVH decides **NOT** to eat something because of conscience sake, then we are **NOT** to judge them, and the same **IS** true for a brother or sister that decides to eat something that **IS FOOD**, as designated by Elohim, we are **NOT** to judge and impose our own restrictions upon them. That is why Paul tells us in *verse 4 Who do you think you are that judges another man's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Yea, he shall be held up: for Elohim **IS ABLE** to make him stand.* Paul is telling us that we are **NOT** to judge someone else's servant by our

own standards, and that of course also means we are **NOT** to judge **ANY** of Elohim's servants; **THERE IS BUT ONE STANDARD TO JUDGE BY AND THAT IS YHVH's TORAH**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. We must remember that there **IS BUT ONE** Master and we all belong to Him that created us, and that of course **IS** our Heavenly Father and His Son for they are echad, they are One.

*Verse 5 One man esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regards the day, regards it unto YHVH; and he that regards **NOT** the day, to YHVH he does **NOT** regard it.*

First of all we have to understand that this is **NOT** talking about the Sabbath or the designated feasts of YHVH, for they have been established as **EVERLASTING STATUTES, STATUTES THAT CANNOT BE CHANGED**. Therefore what is Paul talking about when he says, *One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike?*

During the time that Paul was teaching and preaching the Word of Elohim there were many man made traditions about what day was better to get married, or what day was better to start the harvest, or what was the best day to do the laundry, etc. These are things that are not even discussed in the Torah and therefore every man **IS** free to decide these trivial matters on his own and **WE ARE NOT TO JUDGE** him for it. If he says that Sunday or Wednesday is the best day to get married, then so be it for him. There **IS NO NEED** to enter into **DOUBTFUL DISPUTATIONS and OR ARGUMENTS** over such trivial matters. Paul is saying that as long **AS IT DOES NOT** contravene the Torah, then let every man offer **ALL OF HIS DEEDS, ALL OF HIS WORKS, ALL THAT HE DOES, ONTO YHVH**.

*He that eats, eats to YHVH (here again we have to understand that the word *eats* speaks of **WHAT Elohim has DESIGNATED AS FOOD for US and NOT what man has designated as food for himself**, through man's false doctrines), for he gives Elohim thanks; and he that eats **NOT**, to YHVH he eats **NOT**, and gives Elohim thanks.*

Next we have one of the most profound statements in the whole of Scripture; Paul says in *verse 7 For none of us lives to himself, and no man dies to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live **UNTO YHVH**; and whether we die, we die **UNTO YHVH**: whether we live therefore, or die, **WE ARE YHVH's***. Paul says that our life **IS NOT OUR OWN**, we have been bought at a price, a very dear price, and we belong to YHVH and His family, and when we sin, we damage the whole family of Elohim. Each and every sin committed in and by the family of Elohim **AFFECTS** the whole family, the whole body of Messiah, therefore when we **SIN**, when we transgress YHVH's Torah, we are **NOT** only hurting YHVH, but we are hurting ourselves and every member of the household of YHVH. Let us therefore ensure that we keep that thought in mind, the next time we **SIN** and ask Elohim for forgiveness, because we truly owe an apology to the whole house of YHVH for each and every sin that we commit, we need to **REPENT** for transgressing YHVH's Torah, **BECAUSE** every sin **DIMINISHES** the glory of Elohim and makes the road to the Kingdom of Elohim more difficult for **ALL** of us.

What follows **IS** what happens because of **SIN, Torahlessness** in our lives, *verse 9 For to this end Messiah both **died, and rose, and revived**, that He might be Master both of **THE DEAD AND LIVING**.*

Our Messiah died because of our **SIN**, because of our **Torahlessness**, and without His selfless sacrifice we would **ALL** have been doomed for eternity, therefore, **LET US BE** of a very sober mind when we repent for our sins, and furthermore we **MUST** realize and understand the incredible **COST** of our sins, and let us resolve in our hearts, minds and souls, to try and never transgress YHVH's Torah, to never sin again. You might say, but that **IS** an impossible task! However, **IF** you study the Scriptures you will see that Messiah disagrees with that statement, for Messiah Himself has taught us that **IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE TO KEEP AND FOLLOW THE TORAH OF MOSES AND NOT SIN**, and Paul has told us that **WE CAN DO ALL THINGS** through Messiah **WHO STRENGTHENS US** (*Philippians 4:13*), and he also said that when we willingly and lovingly surrender our hearts to our heavenly Father, we then have **THE MIND OF MESSIAH** (*1 Corinthians 2:16*), and **IF** what Paul **IS** saying **IS** true and we do have the mind of Messiah, **THEN IT** stands to reason therefore that **IT IS POSSIBLE** to learn **NOT TO TRANSGRESS YHVH's TORAH, NOT TO SIN**, even though **IT IS** highly unlikely that most of the people of Elohim, will ever attain that maturity level, **BUT DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, KEEP ON TRYING NOT TO TRANSGRESS THE TORAH, NOT TO SIN, FOR IT IS** certainly well worth the effort, and the effort **IS** well pleasing to our heavenly Father.

Verse 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you set at nought your brother? For we shall ALL stand before the judgment seat of Messiah.

What Paul **IS** saying **IS** that **IT IS** futile to judge our brothers and sisters because that is Elohim's role and **NOT OURS**, we are **NOT** equipped to be judges, for we have **ALL SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF ELOHIM**. We must understand that when we judge someone else, it either puffs us up by having us think that we are better than the person or persons we are judging, or else we knock ourselves down, by believing that we can never achieve the level of spirituality that our brother or sister seems to have achieved. Judging people **IS** YHVH's purview and **NOT** ours, and we are admonished to stay away from judging others.

If you truly believe that YHVH **IS SOVEREIGN THEN** the statement in this next *verse* should fill you with joy and jubilation for YHVH will indeed rule over all of His creation. *Verse 11 For IT IS WRITTEN, as I live, says YHVH, EVERY knee shall bow to Me, and EVERY tongue shall confess to Elohim.* That means that there will **NOT** be even one person that does **NOT** bend the knee and become subject to the Living Torah, **YHVH/MESSIAH**, and that **ALL** peoples of the world will actually confess to Elohim, which means that **ALL** peoples will recognize and understand that there **IS BUT ONE ELOHIM**, and that that Elohim is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and besides Him there are **NO OTHER ELOHIM** (gods)

Next comes the very sobering thought that every act that we perform during our entire lifespan **IS RECORDED** and that YHVH **WILL JUDGE EVERY ACTION WE HAVE EVER DONE AND EVERY WORD WE HAVE EVER SPOKEN**, *verse 12 So then EVERY ONE of us shall give account of himself to Elohim.* Maybe we should start obeying Him **NOW** since **IT IS** inevitable that we **WILL** be standing in front of Him on judgement day, to answer for every deed and every word we have ever spoken, or every word that we should have spoken and left unsaid.

Next we have some controversial *verses*. First of all let us understand the context of this chapter. This chapter is talking to the **stronger brothers** in the belief, the faith, and **IT IS** admonishing them **NOT** to make their weaker brothers **SIN** by what they eat. At the time that Paul was giving this message to the Romans, the believers in Messiah were ostracized from the Jewish communities and

could **NOT** buy any meat from the Jewish kosher butchers because these butchers were under strict orders from the Sanhedrin **NOT** to sell to them, and therefore these believers had a dilemma, for they wanted to eat what YHVH had designated as food and called clean, and they believed in their hearts that the only place they could buy that kind of meat was from the Jewish kosher butchers, and now they had to buy their meat in the non Jewish markets or butcher shops, and they were very very concerned of the possibility that the Biblically kosher animal had been sacrificed to idols and therefore many of them believed that they would be sinning, **IF** they ate that kind of meat. Paul has told us in *1 Corinthians 8:4* *As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an **IDOL IS NOTHING** in the world **AND THAT THERE IS NO OTHER ELOHIM BUT ONE**. So according to Paul and the balance of Scripture, **IT IS OK** to eat something that YHVH has designated as food, even though **IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFFERED** as a sacrifice by pagans to their idols. However here in *Romans 14* Paul tells us that **IF** the meat of a Biblically kosher animal that has been sacrificed and offered up to an idol, will cause your weaker brother to sin, **IF** he sees you eat it, **THEN IT IS BETTER THAT YOU NOT EAT THAT MEAT AT ALL**, for the sake of your weaker brother, so that you **DO NOT** destroy his belief, his faith. Paul says in *verse 13* *Let us **NOT** therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a **STUMBLING BLOCK** or an occasion **TO FALL IN HIS BROTHER'S WAY**. Paul **IS** preaching exactly what Messiah was preaching and that **IS** that we are to **LOVE EACH OTHER TO SUCH AN EXTENT, that we are NOT to do anything that MIGHT MAKE our brother's and or sister's fall away from the good news of the Gospel of Messiah**, but rather, we are to **DEPRIVE** ourselves of what we desire, **IF** that particular food item that we desire would lead our weaker brother or sister to sin, **IF** they saw us partake of it. Now, that my friends, according to Messiah, **IS LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR**. Amen.**

The controversy that I was talking about comes in *verse 14* *I know, and am persuaded by Adonai Yeshua, that there is nothing unclean of itself*: There are many that say, see this means that everything **IS** clean and therefore we can eat whatever we want. That of course is an absolutely **FALSE** interpretation of this verse. While **IT IS** very true that *there is nothing unclean IN AND OF ITSELF*, there are however things that **ARE UNCLEAN TO US**. In *Leviticus 11*, Moses uses the term, **IT IS UNCLEAN TO YOU** nine times, and he also uses the phrase, **IT SHALL BE AN ABOMINATION UNTO YOU** five times. The number Nine in Scripture speaks of the fruit of the Spirit, for **IT IS** only by and through the Holy Spirit of Elohim that we can obey His Commandments, and the number five in Scripture, speaks of Elohim's Torah and His grace for they are synonymous terms. It is only through His Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions that we learn **HOW** to be Holy as YHVH is Holy.

We simply **HAVE TO UNDERSTAND** that a pig **IS NOT** unclean to another pig, or to another carnivorous animal, **IT IS ONLY UNCLEAN TO US HUMANS**. When YHVH made **ALL** of creation, including **ALL** of the unclean animals, He stood back and said **IT IS GOOD!** Therefore while **ALL** animals that Elohim has created **ARE GOOD, WHICH** means that they are functioning in the manner that YHVH created them to function, **THEY ARE NOT ALL GOOD FOR US TO EAT**. Elohim has made a distinction between what **IS CLEAN, TAHOR, AND UNCLEAN TAMEI**, and it behooves us to obey Him and eat what YHVH has called clean, for that **IS** the only thing that YHVH has designated as **FOOD for US** believers in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In the balance of the verse where it says, *but to him that esteems any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean*, that is speaking of weaker brothers that were concerned about eating meat that had been

sacrificed to idols, and believed that **IF** they did eat that kind of meat that YHVH had designated as food for us, but that were sacrificed to idols, they would be sinning, and therefore Paul admonishes us **NOT TO RIDICULE THEM** for that practice, because we are Commanded to love our brothers and sisters **AND EDIFY THEM, NOT RIDICULE THEM.**

This is how we are to show the love of Elohim that **IS** supposedly within us, *verse 15 But IF your brother BE GRIEVED WITH YOUR MEAT, that means that you are NOT WALKING IN LOVE. Destroy NOT him with your meat, for whom Messiah died.* What Paul is saying **IS DON'T** let your desire for meat, overshadow the love that we are to have for our neighbours, **BUT** instead **SACRIFICE** your desire for eating meat, in order **NOT TO CAUSE** your brother to sin.

Verse 16 Let not then your good (meaning eating what YHVH has designated as food) be evil spoken of: This brings to mind a verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

We have to understand that **IT IS NOT** enough for us **TO DO GOOD**; we must also **ENSURE** that what we do, **APPEARS OR IS PERCEIVED AS GOOD**, and **THAT IS NO EASY TASK.**

Verse 17 For the kingdom of Elohim is NOT meat and drink; but RIGHTEOUSNESS, and PEACE, and JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. 18 For he that in these things SERVES Messiah IS ACCEPTABLE to Elohim, and APPROVED of men. To support this verse I want to quote what Paul said in Romans 8:7-8 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against Elohim: for IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE TORAH, the Law of Elohim, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE. 8 So THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE ELOHIM.*

Please keep in mind that the reverse **IS ALSO TRUE, HE THAT COMMITS ACTS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND DISRUPTS THE PEACE OF ELOHIM AND IS NOT LEAD BY THE SPIRIT OF ELOHIM, IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ELOHIM.**

Verse 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may EDIFY another. The prerequisite to edifying our brothers and sisters **IS LOVE**, for without love, there **IS NO** belief, no faith and without belief or faith **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE ELOHIM.**

Verse 20 For meat; destroy NOT the work of Elohim. ALL THINGS indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man WHO EATS WITH OFFENCE. 21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby your brother STUMBLES, or IS OFFENDED, or is made weak. The only way to fulfill or bring **THIS COMMANDMENT TO ITS FULLNESS, IS THROUGH LOVE, LOVE FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF ELOHIM.**

Verse 22 Do you believe, do you have faith? Have it to yourself before Elohim. Happy is he that condemns NOT himself in that thing which he allows. 23 And he that doubts IS DAMNED IF HE EATS, BECAUSE he eats NOT of belief, of faith: for whatsoever IS NOT OF BELIEF, OF FAITH IS SIN.

Paul is telling us to study and understand the Word of Elohim so that we will **DO** all things according to Elohim's **WILL**, and **NOT HAVE DOUBTS AND FEARS**, and **NOT HEAP ANY CONDEMNATION UPON OURSELVES.** 2 Timothy 2:15 **STUDY** to show yourself **APPROVED** unto Elohim, a workman that needs **NOT** to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.** Amen

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein*