**Romans: “The just shall live by faith”**

***Receiving the Weak***

***Read:*** *Romans 14:1-12*

***Scripture and Key References:***

“As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions... each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

*~ Romans 14:1 & 12*

Galatians 1:8-9 Matthew 7:1-5; James 4:11-12 1 Cor. 8-10 1 Peter 2:16 Titus 1:9 2 Cor. 5:10

***Introduction:***

As we move into chapter 14 of Romans, we enter the last major section of teaching. This section extends to Romans 15:13. Like everything we have study in Romans, it is built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This section is more practical application of the truths presented in chapters 1-11. This section is very applicable to all Christians everywhere, for it deals with accepting and getting along with believers with whom wee disagree on non-essential matters. We all have room to grow in this area!

***Discussion and Review Questions:***

1. What is Paul’s meaning when he writes to “welcome the weaker believer, but not to quarrel over opinions”? Is there a “spirit of rejection” or “acceptance” in you? In your church?
2. Paul stood strongly for Christian essentials. See for example (Gal. 1:8-9 and 1 Cor. 5:1-2). But when it came to “opinions” or “disputable matters” (NIV) Paul permitted liberty and promoted love. Are these attitudes within you, or do you tend to look down on others who participate in “disputable matters”?
3. Make a list of examples for “convictions” on which Christians are permitted to differ? Look at your list. Do you despise or judge those who “refrain” or “engage” in these things? What should your attitude be?
4. Why is it important that we properly define what it means to “judge” someone else? How does the world misunderstand this concept?
5. What Christian truths does Paul utilize to promote the proper perspective on “disputable matters”? How should “acceptance” and future “judgement” guide our actions toward those that differ with us?