



## The Book of Romans Lesson 13 4Q 2017 Christian Living presented by Tim Jennings

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**New Blogs**—If you don't follow us on Facebook, then be sure to visit our website we are posting new blogs again, the go up every Tuesday, recently we posted:

Jerusalem, Christians and End-Time Methods  
Suicide and the Myth of Lost Salvation  
What is Biblical Justice?  
Is God Punishing the World with Natural Disasters?

**January 10,11, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be conducting a two day seminar at Fort Leonard Wood, MO for military mental health professionals and law enforcement.

**January 19,20, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Tacoma Central SDA Church, Tacoma, Washington.

**March 24, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at the California Baptist University in San Bernadino CA, in conjunction with the AACC

**May 4-5, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Grace Fellowship, York PA, in conjunction with the AACC

**July 27-28, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentationat New Life Church, Colorado Springs CO, in conjunction with the AACC

**September 27-29, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

### SABBATH

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What do you think when you hear—Christian Living?

Do you think primarily of health reform?

Do you think of all the things you **can't** do, which may vary depending on your denominational affiliation—no smoking, no movies, no jewelry, no dresses, no alcohol, no meat, no cheese, no TV?

Do you think of relationship restrictions—Christian living means no women preachers, men run the home and wives submit?

What is Christian living?

Let's look at Ephesians 4:17-32:



<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this plainly, and I insist on it in the Lord: If you are to grow and mature, you must think for yourselves and not live like the Gentiles, who believe all kinds of things that don't make sense.<sup>18</sup> Their minds are darkened and their thinking is confused because they have rejected the truth of God and his methods, and have preferred lies that harden their hearts and separate them from God.<sup>19</sup> [So, would this mean that non-Christian living is to believe superstitions, non-sense, things that don't make sense, to reject the truth about God's character of love and believe things that harden hearts and separate us from God? Even if those doing such things are members of a Christian church?] They have lost all compassion, morality and tenderness, and have immersed themselves in sensuality (practicing every kind of impurity) and are constantly lusting for more. [Do we see this in the Christian homes? Do we see hardness of heart, a desire to use coercion, punishment, violence even by some who call themselves Christians? The rates of pornography use, child molestation, spouse abuse are the same in Christian homes as non-Christian homes—why? Because Christianity has been infected with lies about God, superstitious non-sense promoted as truth that keeps people from actually knowing God and therefore they have a form of godliness but no power. We cannot live Christian lives by knowing Church rules but not knowing God!]

<sup>20</sup> You, however, did not come to know Christ by practicing such impure behavior.<sup>21</sup> Instead, you heard of him and studied the truth of God's methods and character as revealed by Jesus.<sup>22</sup> You were taught that the former ways of life—the survival-of-the-fittest ways, the selfish me-first ways—only lead to self-destruction and death, and that health and life consist of putting off such motives and desires.<sup>23</sup> You were taught the importance of being recreated in heart and mind and displacing the principles of selfishness with those of love,<sup>24</sup> and experiencing a complete transformation of character such that you are an entirely new being recreated in heart-attitude to be like God—truly righteous and holy. [Does Christian living mean a change of behavior merely or does it require a change of heart? Can a change of heart happen through legal accounting? The penal legal accounting theology is a lie and obstructs genuine heart transformation]

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must choose to stop being deceitful in every way, and instead be truthful and honest in all your conduct, for we are members of one body, and such behavior injures both you and the body.<sup>26</sup> [Why do people deceive? Fear, it takes trust in God, to stand up and be truthful when you are afraid of what others might think or do to you if you are. It takes a relationship with God, knowing He is love and wants your best interest to be truthful when you have made mistakes, or done wrong.] "In your anger do not sin"—do not let your anger or any strong emotion take control of your minds and determine your choices; don't retain anger in your hearts.<sup>27</sup> The devil tempts us through our emotions, so don't give him any opportunity to confuse you or lead you astray.<sup>28</sup> The person who has been stealing has been practicing the methods of selfishness, and if they desire to get well, they must have selfishness replaced by love. When selfishness is replaced with love, they will stop stealing, and instead get a job in order to be able to give to others in need. [What is the basis of Christian living? Love for others and how does it function? Where is the source of such love?]



<sup>29</sup> Don't speak unwholesome words, for your words react on the mind, and unwholesome words damage and destroy. Instead, speak what is helpful and uplifting, encouraging others and benefiting those who listen.<sup>30</sup> [Did you know that when you speak it not only reveals what is in your heart, but it reinforces what you have said so that you can strengthen the idea and come to believe the idea if repeated and said enough? So does Christian living mean to be careful in what we say?] And do not close your minds to seeking more truth and thus grieve the Spirit of truth who set your minds free from Satan's lies and settled you into the truth of God's character and methods for the day of our deliverance.<sup>31</sup> [Does Christian living mean to be lovers of truth, be open to move forward with new truths, insights, ideas, to change old beliefs if they are not supported by truth?] Purge your hearts from all bitterness, rage and anger, desire for vengeance, conflict and rumor-mongering, along with every other form of malice and ill will.<sup>32</sup> [Why must we do this if we are to live like Christ? What happens in our hearts, to our characters if we don't forgive? Can we live like Christ and hold to such negative emotions and attitudes?] Be kind, gentle, compassionate and forgiving with each other as God is forgiving to you; remember that all humanity suffers with the same infection of selfishness, and God provides the same Remedy for all.

What is Christian living? Having hearts changed from fear and selfishness to love, which results in truthfulness, respecting the individuality and freewill of others, seeking to give rather than to get, forgiving others and seeking to bring God's remedy to all.

- Can a person live like this and be homeless?
- Can one live like this and wear jewelry, or wear pants, or go to church on a different day than you?
- Can a person live like this and be a woman—a woman preacher? Yes!
- Can a person live like this and have a glass of wine for dinner periodically? Does this mean we promote drinking alcohol? No! It means you can't live like Christ merely by avoiding alcohol.

Read first paragraph, "We are now in the last..." Is the principle of *sola scriptura* Biblical? I guess it depends on what people mean—so let me define a couple of possible definitions:

1. That Scripture (the Bible) is the only source of information God uses to reveal heavenly truth and the only one we can use? No! This is false.
  - The Bible itself teaches that God uses other avenues of divine revelation besides the Bible:
    - Direct conversation—God spoke to Moses at the bush on Sinai—should Moses have said—well I don't have a Bible to check this with....
    - Angelic revelation—Gabriel spoke to Mary, should she have said, "I'm sorry, please show me a Bible verse?"
    - Prophetic speakers—Jonah went to Nineveh with a message from God, did he quote Scripture? Should they have rejected the message as not being from God because Jonah didn't quote a Bible verse?



- Romans 1:20 says that God’s divine nature is seen in what he has made so that men are without excuse—so science and nature reveal things about God
  - The Bible says “Taste and see that the Lord is good” our own life experiences testify to the goodness of God and His methods and the pain and badness of sin.
  - What do all of these methods have in common? Truth! God is the source of all truth, and if it is heavenly truth then it can be relied upon—so the first premise, that Scripture is the only source of heavenly truth is false.
2. The Scripture is the only *written* source of divine revelation and godly truth. –No, this is also false.
- Have you ever read any other material than Scripture in which you found God’s truth?
  - The Bible states God gives spiritual gifts, of discernment, wisdom, speaking, teaching, preaching...some of the people whom God has given such gifts have written books which contain truths from God’s kingdom—so Scripture is not the only source of godly truth.
3. That the Bible is *superior* to other written sources of information and must supersede other Christian books, church manuals, church traditions, church rules, church laws, creeds, consensus statements. In other words, the Scripture is the ultimate authority from which all other written materials and ideas must harmonize? Yes—this is true.

Why do some try to make the *sola scriptura* idea mean that our doctrines can only come from Scripture and must exclude other sources of information?

Because when Scripture is isolated from its anchors in science/nature and experience—in other words, torn away from how life actually works, then people can make up superstitious, non-sense ideas and claim they are supported by Scripture. But, if you require our understanding of Scripture to harmonize with the laws of nature and real life experiences, then certain interpretations are not possible—particularly all the imposed legal penal ideas of the world that have infected Christianity are expelled and we come back to worship our Creator God.

But, many within the church prefer the ways of the world and thus reject the other threads God uses to reveal Himself and insist that only the Bible can be used to inform us about God and His plan of salvation.

Which view of *sola scriptura* are you most comfortable with? Is anyone uncomfortable harmonizing our understanding of the Bible with nature and experience?

This is what we here at Come and Reason Ministries call the *Integrative Evidenced-Based Approach!* It was after we studied out the Scripture and began promoting this view that we came across these quotations from one of the founders of the SDA church, demonstrating no truth is truly new truth, just rediscovered truth.

**The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God’s dealing with human life.** Here are the treasures from



which Christ's workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker. – {COL 125.2}

Rightly understood, both the **revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature.** {Ed 130.3}

**Jesus followed the divine plan of education.** The schools of His time, with their magnifying of things small and their belittling of things great, He did not seek. **His education was gained directly from the Heaven-appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life--God's lesson books,** full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart.  
{Ed 77.2}

### Science

"Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him. Nature speaks to our senses without ceasing. The open heart will be impressed with the love and glory of God as revealed through the works of His hands. The listening ear can hear and understand the communications of God through the things of nature....." {SC 85.1}

### Experience

"God speaks to us through His providential workings and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. In our circumstances and surroundings, in the changes daily taking place around us, we may find precious lessons if our hearts are but open to discern them....." {SC 87.2}

### Scripture

"God speaks to us in His word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption....." {SC 87.3}

So, does Christian living mean that we hold to beliefs we were taught by an organization or person in authority and reject evidence—or that we have minds that think, reason, examine evidence and follow the truth where it leads, despite what the organized system says?

Do we as Christians form beliefs based on experiments, or on the word of Scripture?



Hmmm...are we to form our beliefs on statements from the Bible, or our feelings? How are we to balance our experiences with the Bible and nature? Do we form experiments to test the truth and determine the meaning?

Here is what one of the founders of the SDA church wrote, see if you agree or disagree? Does this guidance lead a person toward superstition and unhealthy beliefs, or away from superstition and unhealthy beliefs? This is from a letter written in 1871 to a specific person struggling with health problems:

As I have before stated, you, my sister, **rely upon experience**. Your experience decides you to pursue a certain course. **But that which many term experience is not experience at all; it is simply habit**, or mere indulgence, blindly and frequently ignorantly followed, with a firm, set determination, and **without intelligent thought or inquiry relative to the laws at work** in the accomplishment of the result. {3T 68.3}

**Real experience is a variety of careful experiments made with the mind freed from prejudice and uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits. The results are marked with careful solicitude and an anxious desire to learn, to improve, and to reform on every habit that is not in harmony with physical and moral laws.** The idea of others' gainsaying what you have learned by experience seems to you to be folly and even cruelty itself. But there are more errors received and firmly retained from false ideas of experience than from any other cause, for the reason that **what is generally termed experience is not experience at all; because there has never been a fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principle involved in the action.** {3T 69.1}

**Your experience was shown to me as not reliable, because [it is] opposed to natural law. It is in conflict with the unchangeable principles of nature. Superstition, my dear sister, arising from a **diseased imagination, arrays you in conflict with science and principle.** Which shall be yielded? Your strong prejudices and very set ideas in regard to what course is best to be pursued relative to yourself have long held you from good. I have understood your case for years, but have felt incompetent to present the matter in so clear a manner **that you could see and comprehend it**, and put to a practical use the light given you. {3T 69.2}**

**There are many invalids today who will ever remain so because they cannot be convinced that their experience is not reliable.** The brain is the capital of the body, the seat of all the nervous forces and of mental action. The nerves proceeding from the brain control the body. **By the brain nerves, mental impressions are conveyed to all the nerves of the body as by telegraph wires; and they control the vital action of every part of the system.** All the organs of motion are governed by the communications they receive from the brain. {3T 69.3}

What did you hear? What is being described? Do you hear the scientific method being described? How many of theology professors are willing to do this?





This is the only path of safety because it is the path of truth, assimilating all the evidences God has given, training the mind to think, reason, comprehend and apply truth, which transforms the being. As Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

The legal view interprets this to mean, you will know the truth that a legal payment has been made and you will be set free from God’s inflicted punishment for your sin. But this is a lie and cheats people out of the real freedom—freedom from lies, freedom from fear, insecurity, misunderstanding, freedom from the enslavement of sin itself and the chains of incapacity that violations of God’s design laws bring.

A person who violates the laws of health will suffer health problems, which reduce autonomy, limit ability, i.e. enslave them. I have had patients who through years of smoking developed COPD and required oxygen, they are less free, enslaved to their condition.

People who lie, cheat, steal—live in fear, fear of being found out, fear of punishment, fear of rejection, they are slaves to their fears and these lead to worry, hypervigilance, and distrust—such people have less freedom and their relationships suffer.

The truth sets us free from sin and all the damaging consequences and enslavement that sin brings!

## **SUNDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “In Romans 14:1-3...” Did the New Testament church give rules—or did they *rule*, i.e. determine and define, for the new converts, what design laws they needed to understand and harmonize with in their religious practice?

From *The God-Shaped Heart* (p 152,153):

The New Testament church understood the distinction between imposed law and design law. When the immature were struggling with whether to require Gentile converts to adhere to the imposed rules of a symbolic system, the church leaders said, “Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood” (Acts 15:20). These instructions are not imposed rules but are the wisdom of design law.

Food polluted by idols:

- An idol cannot change the nutritional quality of the food. Therefore, eating foods offered to idols does not pollute the body. Paul makes this clear in Romans 14.
- The issue they were addressing is the design law of worship—by beholding we become changed. As we discussed in chapter 7, this is called modeling. What we believe has power over us: truth heals and sets free, lies damage and enslave. Don’t allow your minds to become contaminated by giving any credence to idols. Thus, don’t eat food



polluted by the *idea* that it is a bounty given you by a false god.

Sexual immorality:

- God designed relationships to operate on love and trust. When sexual intimacy occurs between husband and wife, as God designed, healthy bonding occurs. The brain actually rewires, and reward circuits are heightened for one's spouse. This is design law—how our biology is actually built to work. Deviating from this design is damaging to the mind, body, and relationships.
- It is a violation of design law, altering brain circuitry, inflaming selfish and fear circuits, thus obstructing healing of mind and character.

Meat from strangled animals or blood:

- It also violates design law—the laws of health.
- Humans were not designed to eat meat, and the blood carries waste products, stress hormones, and various inflammatory factors. Eating raw meat and drinking blood increases disease risk, and when the body is unhealthy the mind is compromised.

The New Testament church rejected the imposed-law rules and focused instead on living in harmony with God's design law for life. When we have accepted the lie that God's law is simply a list of rules, we believe they are subject to change with time and place. Good Christian people fall into the trap of arguing back and forth over trivial points, oblivious to the fact they are all worshiping the same dictator god. We then teach our children ideas of God that drive a wedge between them and God.

Read second paragraph, “Meanwhile...” Have this been your experience? Has this been your practice?

Why do you think some people, instead of leaving others free to have a different opinion, instead try to silence or stop others from sharing their opinion?

Read bottom pink section, “Although we need to keep in mind...” First question, are we to judge and if so what are we to judge?

- Are we to judge the facts, truths, realities—i.e. if something is actually the way it is being presented or not?
  - What standard do we use to make that judgment? How do we tell if something is true or not?
  - “And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? *Should they seek* the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.” Isa 8:19,20 NKJV
    - What does this mean?
    - What law? the Torah is the word here, does it mean merely the written word? Or does the written word reveal the living word?
    - And what is the single argument the Torah makes over and over again that





- separates the true God from all the false gods? The true God is the Creator—and upon what law does God's creation operate? Design law!
- So, if preachers preach a god who imposes laws which lead to non-sense, legal theologies, and deny the design laws of God, these people have no light in them
  - Are we to judge whether something is healthy or not? What standard or parameters do we use?
    - Design laws, laws of health, and outcomes, i.e. experience
  - Are we to judge someone's motives? Are we to make a judgment whether someone is acting to promote self or to help others? Are we to make a judgment if someone is a friend or an enemy? What is necessary to accomplish this?
    - Heb 5:14, the mature are those who have developed by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong—we must practice examining and thinking for ourselves
    - Consider this wisdom, do you agree?
      - If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man's wisdom. Here is the great danger of many in -----. **They have not an experience for themselves. They have not been in the habit of prayerfully considering for themselves, with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. [They have not developed by practice...] They wait to see what others will think.** If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that **they are inexperienced and weak-minded** through long yielding to the enemy, and will always be as sickly as babes, **walking by others' light, living on others' experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act.** They act as though they had not an individuality. **Their identity is submerged in others;** they are merely shadows of those whom they think about right. Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, **they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days.** They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for they do not know that it is he. **Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching.** They are not spiritual, therefore spiritual things are not discerned. They are not wise in those things which relate to the kingdom of God. **Neither young nor old are excusable in trusting to another to have an experience for them.** Said the angel: "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." **A noble self-reliance is needed in the Christian experience and warfare.** {2T 129.2}
    - Does your church teach you to think for yourself, to understand for yourself, to develop the ability to discern right from wrong by evidence and experience, or do they indoctrinate you to a creed, a system of beliefs and incite fear that if you change those beliefs you are sinning and will be lost?
  - Are we to make judgments about God?
    - Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a



loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Rev 14:6.7

- God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, “You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried.” Rom 3:4 GNT

When do we speak and when do we keep silent?

When did Jesus speak and when did Jesus keep silent?

Jesus kept silent in two places:

- When the audience was not open or willing to hear, i.e. their hearts were closed.
- When the audience was not mature enough or ready to hear what he had to say Jn 16:12

## MONDAY

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The day’s title is *Before the Judgment Seat*, what do you think of with this title?

Read first paragraph, “We tend to judge...” Why will we be judged by the standard we used to judge others?

If we interpret this through human imposed law lenses then: it is because God knows the secrets of our hearts; we have disobeyed and presumed to take God’s authority to judge; this is sinful and God therefore as the supreme judge imposes our own judgment back on us to punish us for our crime.

If we use the design law reality—we realize what Jesus said:

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup> But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Mt 12:34-37

How we judge other reveals the actual condition of our own hearts/minds/characters and thus God’s judgment is simply the accurate diagnosis of our own heart condition.

This is design law, we are diagnosed, or judged, to be either healed and like Christ in character, which is evidenced by our grace toward others, or we are diagnosed/judged to be like Satan in character and this is evidenced by our judgmentalism toward others.



Read second paragraph, “The citation from Isaiah...” What law lens do you hear this through? Those who already have accepted the lie that God’s law functions no differently than human law hear this as a judicial proceeding. Is there another way to hear this?

Romans 14:10-12 From *The Remedy*:

Who are you then to judge your brother or sister? Do you think you are somehow better? Why do you belittle and look at others with disdain? Don't you realize that we are all infected with the same sickness and one day all of us will stand before God to see if we have been healed?<sup>11</sup>It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'everyone will kneel before me and be examined; every mouth will reveal what is the condition of the heart.'"

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will stand before God, and the true condition of our hearts will be revealed.

Which way is more consistent with the Bible and our Creator God, the judicial imposed law, imposed punishment view of judgment, or the accurate diagnosis view?

Any Biblical evidence that God’s judgment is His accurate diagnosis?

- Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone! Hos 4:17
- They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. Jer 2:5
- He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” Rev 22:11 NKJV

God’s judgment in the end is simply the accurate diagnosis of every character, every heart—have we trusted God, opened our hearts and been restored to righteousness by the indwelling Spirit, or have we clung to lies, preferred selfishness and hardened our hearts in evil and sin?

## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “In Romans...” Is the wisdom of this chapter restricted to foods offered to idols and various ceremonial holidays?

The lesson on WEDNESDAY speaks strongly that the weekly Sabbath cannot be included in this passage, read the last paragraph, “To bring the weekly Sabbath...” thoughts?

Can you imagine Paul bringing the weekly Sabbath into this? Yes! Absolutely, why?

Because Paul is speaking about the real issue in salvation—the healing of the heart and mind, the restoration of Christlikeness in the inner man. Can a person be transformed in the inner workings of their hearts against their will?

So, must a person be fully persuaded in their own mind in order to be saved?



Would this mean that a person who accepts Jesus as their Savior, only genuinely does this when they are fully persuaded in their own mind?

Yes! If we include in this passage that a person to accept Jesus must be fully persuaded in their own mind, are we minimizing the importance of accepting Jesus?

So, if we say that every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind about the Sabbath, are we minimizing the importance of the Sabbath? No!

Why, then, does the lesson argue it does?

Because of accepting the false imposed law view of God's law, in that view the Sabbath is just an imposed rule that must be enforced, and if you break God's imposed rules your are legally guilty and God will punish.

They have taken this beautiful chapter, in which Paul elevates the principles of God, truth, love, freedom which must be utilized in order to transform hearts, and pushed them aside and suggest that these principles don't apply to the Sabbath, that the Sabbath is still legally binding, that one cannot include the fourth commandment in Paul's discourse. And thus, instead of transforming hearts with God's healing methods, this approach inflames fear and damages hearts.

Back to **TUESDAY**, read last paragraph, "Have you ever heard someone..." What is the balance here?

Do you agree that if your example leads someone astray then you are culpable?

If I wear a wedding ring, and a person believes that a wedding ring is jewelry and jewelry is sinful and therefore, they conclude if Jennings wears a wedding ring, then Christ is not real and they leave the church and they reject Jesus, am I culpable for their loss?

If you observe the Sabbath and someone believes that your Sabbath observance is legalistic and denies God's grace, therefore they leave the church or won't listen to what you have to say about God, are you culpable?

Where is the balance between living up to the light that God has revealed to you and conforming your behavior to the level where others are?

Would it not be about living in harmony with God's design law? That we can conform our choices to be appealing to local customs and culture, to not offend, alienate, or cause obstacles to the gospel—as long as we do not violate God's design laws, but we don't conform if we are going against God's methods and designs?



## THURSDAY

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Read Romans 15:1-3:

We, who have had our minds set free from distrust and fear and are therefore strong in our confidence in God and in understanding his methods, have a responsibility to help those still weakened by the infection of distrust and selfishness—and to not simply live to please ourselves.<sup>2</sup> Each of us should do all in our power to help our neighbor recover from the devastation caused by distrust in God, fear, and selfishness. We should strive to help heal and restore our neighbor.<sup>3</sup> Christ himself has shown how to live, for he did not live to please himself, but, as the Scriptures state, "I have accepted the abuse meant for you, in order to protect and heal you." *The Remedy*

Any thoughts on what we could do to accomplish this?