

A Slave to Christ
November 7, 2010
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As you are turning to Romans 14, I want to remind you that there are 27 canonical books in your New Testament and they were all originally written in Greek. They were written by 8 or 9 authors and this morning we want to look at a little bit of that. I wanted to bring that to your attention. Here is our title: A Slave to Christ. May I remind you that this is the second time we have read this passage? We preached through these same verses last Sunday and we are going to do it again. We are going to preach through this text three times because there is that much for us every time.

Romans 14:1-12

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let him that God hath received another man's standeth or falleth. is able to make him above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. Buy why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why does thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

There are 27 canonical books in your New Testament and they were all originally written in Greek.

Let me remind you from last week that there were multiple groups in this church that Paul is writing to in the city of Rome who were struggling one with another. And you recall from last week that we divided the congregation into Group A and Group B and we made one group vegetarians and the other group felt free to eat whatever meat they wanted to. We talked about how we are not going to judge each other. We are not going to declare each other wrong in these non-essential areas of the faith. We outlined some non-essential areas.

May I ask you, Are you a black and white kind of person? Are you the kind of person who says, Just give me the rules? Is that your temperament or nature? Do you just prefer have everything ironed out, don't make me think, just tell me if it is or is not lawful? Did God make you that way and you just kind of like to have things black and white? In fact, grey gets you kind of uneasy. It is a lot easier for you for someone to say that is wrong. That is right. That is okay. That is not. Give me the list. I really like. Would you rather prefer the preacher to spell it out. This is okay. This is not. How are you made up? We are all made up differently. Everyone is slightly different. You know some people really get uncomfortable with grey areas in Christianity. They just want to spell out everything for someone. They don't want to give any grey areas. They label everything, wrong or right. Do you remember we talked about last week that we are not going to produce cookie cutter Christians? The goal is not to get every single person dressing the same way, looking the same, marching the same way. There is liberty in the body of Christ, yes or no? Will you recall, please, that we tried to use an illustration that if Christians drive trucks we really don't care if we drive a Toyota or GMC or Chevy, black or white,

we're going to have some liberty with that. We want you coming to Christ, we want you a follower of Christ, but once you come under the lordship of Christ we want you to realize that everyone is not going to spell everything the same way. And there is freedom in the body of Christ. We are going to pick up on that aspect and continue marching through the text.

Paul addresses these grey areas, these areas where there is not clear, defining lines. Some were choosing not to eat. Some were choosing to eat. Some were choosing to keep the causing a division in essential elements. Why is it wrong for me to scrutinize the grey area choices another brother or sister makes? choosing to eat. Some were Jewish festivals, some were not Jewish festivals. And it was the body of Christ over these non-

How does Paul address this question? *Who are thou that judgest another man's servant?* Why is it wrong for me to scrutinize the grey area choices another brother or sister makes? What is wrong with that? Why can't I go around scrutinizing grey areas? Why can't I go around inspecting translations, and ipods, and what kind of music are you listening to, and how do you dress? What is the problem with doing that? We want to talk about that. We want to talk about why that should not be happening in the body of Christ. Why you or I should not be going around into your household and your household and into your private life and try to scrutinize your grey area choices.

Let me give you a cautionary statement. We are to judge when it is black and white. Now typically what happens in a church is when the preacher talks about grey areas everyone wants to make every thing a grey area choice and then there is no church discipline and then there is no admonishment whatsoever because everything is a grey area. We can live any way we want. That is not what we are talking about. I want to be very clear with the congregation. We are not talking about that. Do you have a scriptural basis to that truth? Yes I do.

Paul said, *For I verily, as absent in the body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath done this deed.* Paul knew that at the church at Corinth there was a guy sleeping with his step mom. And he said, I don't even need to be there in that situation. That is a black and white issue. I am not going to call that a grey area. We are not going to give liberty in those areas. May I tell you that I am going to continue to harp on the fact that God made you to be heterosexual. I am not going to go away from that. I am not going to call that a grey area. If God made you a male, act like a male. If God made you a female, act like a female. Males are not to look like females, sound like females, and all that feminacy. It is not a grey area. That is not what we are talking about. Those are not grey areas. Now some people get very uncomfortable about that. I want to make sure that you understand that I recognize what are grey area choices and where the word of God is black and white. Where the word of God is black and white, it is black and white and it is not optional.

How do we determine when he says, *Who are thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he stands or falls?* What does he mean by his own master? I want to dig into that and I want to show you how I dug into it. I am going to stop right now and put my teaching hat on and I want every Sunday school teacher, every single Bible student to kind of listen up right now and I want to show you how I worked through this. I want to talk you through this, not preaching, I want to teach right now for just a moment.

I pull up blueletterbible.org. It is a website that everyone in this room has access to if you have the Internet. It is free. If I type in blueletterbible.org in my url, this page comes up. I type in this block Romans 14:4 because I want to know what it looks like in the original language. I want to know more about that word. Now this is a website that all of you have access to. I am trying to teach you to get into your word and grow deeper in your understanding of Scripture. So when I click return on this Romans 14:4, this page will come up. At the top it is going to give me the Scripture reference that I just pulled up. The word is master. It breaks it down for me and it shows me every Greek word that was

used to translate the rendering that we have right there. I come down to the word master and I see that it is kurios. Kyrios is the Greek word that Paul uses for master. You say, I cannot believe the preacher is doing this. Is the whole message going to be like that? No it is not. You are not in college. Just give me another minute or two. Click on 2962 which is the strong concordance word for kyrios. This webpage comes up. It looks like this. At the top of it I can press on this button and hear this word pronounced. I know that it is a masculine noun and I scroll down here and I can see that the word the word has been used 748 times in my Bible. And it is translated with an upper case L, Lord, 667 times. I am going to submit to you that if a word is found in your Bible 667 times it is an important word. In our text that we just read I have grabbed the entire text and I have showed you every time that the word Kyrios is used in this text. 16 times approximately depending on what rendering you used. I am going to submit to you that the lordship of Jesus Christ is an important part of this passage. Look at the number of times it is referenced. Let me back up and look at one step. I did it for the entire New Testament. 27 canonical books and I said, How many times is the word God used in my New Testament. 1351 times. How many times is the word Jesus used? 977 times. How many times is the word Lord used. It's 667 times. How many times is Messiah or Christ used. It's 555 times. You say, Preacher, what is your point. You are just showing us statistics. No. In fact, if there are any Intel guys they would figure it out very quickly. Here is the central message in the New Testament. There is a God who sent His only begotten Son by the name of Jesus. God 1351 one times, Jesus 977 times and that God has declared that Jesus is Lord and Christ, 667 times, 555 times. That is the central message of the entire New Testament. Nothing else.

One God, 1351 times, who sent His Son and His Son's name is Jesus. And so that we would understand who Jesus is, He didn't give Him a last name. Lord or Christ is not His last name. It is a title. It helps me understand Who He is. It is like saying The President. The Lord. The Kyrios. So Jesus is identified as the Kyrios 667 times in the New Testament. Just so that you see the comparison, Savior is mentioned 23 times. I am afraid that in America all we talk about is Savior. Lord is hardly ever mentioned because Lord implies boss. On that webpage that we were just looking at I blocked out the middle section so I could isolate it so I could show you exactly what that Greek word Kyrios means. It means he to whom a person or thing belongs. The Kyrios is the owner.

Peter said it like this. 2 Peter 2:1. *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.* Do you remember when you were bought? I would like you to know that if you are a Christian, you are a slave. You are not your own. You have been bought. You have been purchased. You are not your own. Now, I know that grinds at who we are as Americans, because we believe I don't have a boss. I am my own person. You don't tell me what to do. But I want you to know that if you consider yourself a born again believer, that is you are trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, you are not your own boss. You are owned.

What did He buy me
what I was bought
valuable than cash
was it then that
was God's blood.
secure to purchase or

The truth is on that cross when the words "It is finished" were expressed out of the Son of God's mouth, what was communicated was that souls were purchased that very day.

with? Did He do cash? Is that with? No. Something much more purchased the souls of men. What purchased the souls of men? It God's innocent blood was shed to redeem or to buy back souls.

I know this makes us uncomfortable. But that is the truth. The truth is that on the cross when blood was being shed and the words "It is finished" were expressed, when they exploded out of the Son of God's mouth, what was communicated was that souls were purchased on that very day.

If He is the Master, who are we? Well, the text says that we are servant. This is Strong's word 3610. Here it is. It is one who lives in the same house as another, spoken of all who are under the authority of one and the same householder. So may I tell you, may I just give you a little picture? If you can

imagine a movie like Robin Hood or Braveheart and we would go over to England somewhere and there is a lord of a mansion and there are servants running around all over that place on that mansion, we are the servants and He is the Lord. And we are fellow servants in this large household called the body of Christ. There are not tears and there are not layers or bosses upon bosses. There are only two categories. Lord and all of us who are all servants. Here is the idea that he communicates to us. Why are you judging him when you are also a servant just like him? That is the message. You judge yourself. Be careful. I am not talking about black and white issues. A brother does not have the authority to come over and say, The Lord is leading me to divorce my wife and marry my 17-year-old secretary. The Lord is not leading you anywhere near there, Brother. That is not happening. We are talking about grey areas in which the Scripture does not clearly delineate things.

Paul said it like this. Ephesians 2:19. *Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;* So what is the body of Christ? It is one large household. Let's read the Scripture again. *He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord his own master; and he that regardeth not the day, to the lord his own master he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, his own master, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord his own master he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.* Here is why I don't judge you and you don't judge me. And let's forget about the fact that I am the pastor of the church. You manage your grey areas and I manage my grey areas because I am not going to account to God for you and you are not going to account to God for me. The reason we have gossip and all kinds of issues in the body of Christ is because we are going around judging grey areas. And we need to mind our own business.

Romans 14:7. *For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.* Possessive. Ownership. You are not your own. If you claim that I am a born again believer, I've been saved by the blood on the cross, then I want you to know something. You have been bought. Your fingernails, your mind, your entire body has been bought.

May I ask you this simple question? Is Jesus Lord of your mind? Does He guide what you think or do you think what you want to think? Is He in charge of your thinking this morning? Do the thoughts that you think, is He in charge? Do you take your thinking and subordinate to the lordship of Jesus Christ? Do you recognize, I should not be thinking this? Christ would not be pleased with me thinking this. This is not my brain. This is His brain. He bought it on a cross 2,000 years ago with His own precious blood and He bought it so I would think right thoughts.

So, if you claim to be a Christian and you believe in some nonsense that evolution is the way in which we came into being, you have not subordinated your worldview to the lordship of Jesus Christ. That is an example. If you buy into the secular progressive agenda, then you have not subordinated your thinking to the lordship to the thinking of Jesus Christ. If you spend your day worrying, and are anxious, worried about what is going to happen to your 401K plan, worried about what is going to happen to the economy, worried about the election, if you spend your day worrying and anxious, you have not subordinated your mind to the lordship of Jesus Christ. If you, Men, can't keep your eyes to yourself and as soon as you see something that you shouldn't see, your mind goes crazy with impure thoughts, you have not subordinated your mind to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

This is how Paul said it. Every Christian should have this Scripture memorized. Mark it in your Bible. Star it and underline it and highlight it. 1st Corinthians 6:19-20. *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

You are not your own. Let's bring some practical application to this. This body is not my own. It is the Lord's. Therefore I must take care of it like it is the Lord's body. So I am not going to have my 3rd

piece of pie so that I have a sugar overload and go into diabetes because this is not my body. This is the Lord's body. I am not going to bring tobacco into my body because this the Lord's body and I need to take care of this body. Let me put it this way: I am going to brush my teeth to the glory of God. Why? These are not my teeth. These are the Lord's teeth and these teeth are not going to get cavities because these are the Lord's teeth. I am supposed to take care of these teeth. You say, no way. You are exaggerating. I don't think so in any way, shape or form. I don't think so one bit. I am not going to over eat. I am going to exercise. I am going to think good thoughts. I am going to keep myself on the straight and narrow. Why? So I can keep a laundry list of rules. No. No. No. So that I keep the preacher happy? No. No. No. So that I can be accepted in my local church? No. Why then? What is the number one reason? I have been bought and I am not my own. I am the Lord's. That is what should be motivating us.

Let's grab some non-essentials. Let's take your drinking habits. Is the Lord Jesus okay with your drinking habits? Have your subordinated what you drink to the lordship of Christ? Have you prayed about it? Do you really want me drinking this, Lord? Are you okay with me pushing a cart around at Food Lion and letting the entire world see this is what I drink, are you okay with this? I have freedom. Don't you talk to me about my liberty, Preacher. I am not. You decide that, but what I am saying to you is have you prayed about it? Have you submitted to the lordship of Christ? I am not trying to get into your business. You pray about it. You examine yourself. You ask, Lord Jesus, are You okay with me drinking this? If the answer is yes, recognize that you will account for that someday and move forward. Let's talk about music. What you listen to. What you surround yourself with in your car and in your home. Lord Jesus, are You okay with this music I am listening to? Is this good music? Does this edify my body? Does this encourage me? Am I thinking good thoughts because I am listening to this music? You fill your mind with a country western song that talks about leaving your dog, your wife, your job and everything and you think that is good stuff? You pray about that and ask. Ladies, do you take Jesus with you when you go shopping? Lord Jesus, are You okay with me wearing this? Lord Jesus, is this too tight? Lord Jesus, is this too short? Lord Jesus, is this too revealing? Lord Jesus, are You okay with what is in my closet? Could we go bar by bar, coat hanger, by coat hanger and You would be okay with what is in my closet? I am not going to come be the closet police. You don't want someone being a closet police in your house and I don't want one in my house. That is not how we do it in the body of Christ. How do we do it then, Preacher? You subordinate yourself to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

I don't about Brazil, but this is my assesment of American Christianity. In life we want the almighty dollar to be lord. But the moment we get sick, the moment we are terminally ill, or have cancer or a heart attack, then at that moment, we want, "Dear Jesus, you own my sould. Please take me to heaven." And that is exactly what Paul was addressing. Whether we live or whether we die, He is Lord. He is the dead of the dead and He is the Lord of the living. You don't have it your way. That is the problem with American Christianity is they want a Savior a life and lord in death. I get so exasperated with this idea of have you made Jesus Lord?

Can I tell you something? You don't make Jesus Lord. God the Father made Him Lord and it is a done deal. He has been Lord. He is Lord. He will be Lord and there is nothing that is going to change that. Whether the entire American Christian church stubs their nose at Christ, He is still Lord. Is He Lord of the remote control? Is He Lord of what you watch? Is He in charge of what you view with your eyes? I am not going to tell you what to watch and what not to watch. We are not going to give you a PG or PG-13 or letter grading and say, Everything below this is okay, and everything above that is off limits. No. What you watch is a grey area. And you subordinate that grey area to the lordship of Christ. Are you okay, Lord, with me watching this? Is this pleasing to You, Lord Jesus? If the answer is no, turn it off. I know it is going on in the church so I am going to address it right now, because I am tired of hearing about it and no change is being made. Please listen to me very closely. Not a single family or couple in this church would invite another couple over to their house and say, We would like you to

perform some sexual immorality in our living room. Would you mind doing that? That would never ever happen. But isn't it amazing how we are watching it on a television screen? Pray tell what is the difference when you bring it in on a black cable or whether you bring two adults with a pulse into your living room and they do it in front of you or you bring it up and put it on a flat screen like this. It has got to stop. It is not healthy. It is not helping your marriage.

We sit there and watch stupid shows on Lifetime about divorce after divorce and then we wonder where in the world do we ever get the thought of divorce in the body of Christ. Aren't morning, what are you videos are you watching? Have you subordinated lordship of Jesus Christ?

Why did Jesus Christ die, rise and live again? That He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:9

we surprised? Great day in the watching? What You Tube What are you listening to? your viewing pleasure to the

Romans 14:9. Let's take a minute and unpack verse number 9 please. This is what Paul says and I would like for you to look at it in your own Bible and I would like for you to put a note down. Let's pause for just a minute and draw our attention to verse 9. *For to this end, for this purpose, Christ both died, and rose, and lived again.* Why did He do that? Why did He die, rise and live again? Why did He live on this earth a sinless life? Why did He die on a bloody cross? Why did He call His own life back into existence three days later? Why did He stay on this planet for 40 days showing Himself alive to multitudes of people? Why did He do that? Look at the word in your own Bible. Do you see the word "that?" Do you see it in your own Bible? That, please underline, that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living. What we want, very plainly, is we want a God who died to take us to Heaven. That is what we want.

Let me give you another illustration. Can you follow this analogy please? Let's just take for a simple analogy that I am at the lake or at the ocean tired, exhausted, dehydrated, out too far and I begin to drown. And Bob sees me and swims out to me, rescues me, pulls me to the beach, pumps my chest so that water comes spewing out, I get my breath and come to, get revived and I say, Thanks a lot. Now don't bother me any more and I walk away. That is how we are with salvation. We want a Lord who will rescue us from death to subordinate ourselves. It but after that, mind your interested in you being

He died to be Lord of your life.

but we certainly don't want was cool that you saved me, own business. I am not involved with my life. I don't want you managing my time. I don't want you managing my checkbook. I don't want you giving direction to my life. And I certainly don't want you digging. It is cool that you saved me and I appreciate that, and every now and then I will give you a little praise and sing a song to you, throw a 20 spot in the offering plate. But if you think I am going to live my life in such a way that it reflects the fact that I would not be alive if it wasn't for you, you are crazy. Quite frankly, that is the typical, evangelical Christian in America. They are not interested in Jesus being Lord of their life. It makes them very uncomfortable to talk about Him as Lord. And yet if you would please look at the screen, the word "that" is in green to show you that it is a purpose word. He died to be Lord of your life. He is not content to take you to Heaven some day. The lordship begins the moment you submit yourself as King, Christ, Savior. From that day forward the expectation is that you will live your life for Him. He is the Master.

Let me wrap it up with Peter's great sermon in Acts 2 and then I want to show you two points and we will be done.

Acts 2:36. *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* You don't make Him Lord. God made Him Lord. It is a done deal. Here is the message. You Jews, you crucified that Jesus. You crucified Him. You thought

you were killing Him. You thought you were done with Him. You thought that was it for that Jesus of Nazareth. I need to let you know, that God was not done with that Jesus. That God made that Jesus both Lord and the Messiah. That is the central message of the New Testament. That is the salvation message that 3,000 people were saved to. The message was not, I'm sure, Buddy, you don't want to go to Hell. Hell is a scary place. And your grandma is in Heaven and Uncle Bob is in Heaven and Heaven is really a cool place. Please, come to Heaven. That was not the message preached in Acts 2. That was not the message. The message that was preached in Acts 2 is you crucified the Messiah, Jews.

When they heard, Jesus is Kyrios, that Jesus was Lord, when they heard that Jesus is the Master, when they heard that Jesus was Lord, what did they do? They were pricked in their heart and said under Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what must we do? What is the response? It is real simple. It is repent. It is change your thinking. It is to immediately change your direction. It is to stop thinking the way you were thinking. Change how you think.

Let me ask you. What grey area of your life is He not Lord of? What grey area are you holding out? What grey area are you holding on to? There are people in this church that have been saved for weeks and perhaps even months and have not been baptized yet. So He is not Lord of your baptism is He? You are still lord of that baptism. There are people in the church that are not members of the congregation. He is not Lord of your church membership is He? You won't subordinate yourself to a local church. Even though He died for it, you won't let that go. What other grey areas is He not Lord of in your life? How about your television viewing pleasure? Is He Lord of your remote control? How about your wardrobe? How about your check book? If we opened up your check book would there be any evidence that He is Lord of your checkbook at all? How about managing your time? Is there any evidence that He is Lord of that? Let me close with these two things because I think I got the message across.

Let me give you two absolute biblical truths. #1 You are going to stand before the King some day. You will. You are not going to stand with your wife. You are going to stand by yourself. You are not going to stand with your preacher. You are not going to stand with that congregation. The national pastors are not going to stand with you and you are not going to stand with those national pastors. You individually by ourselves will stand before King Jesus and we will account for grey area management in our lives. Oh, your sins are forgiven. That is a glorious truth. But grey area choices, what college are you going to? What took you so long to get baptized? Why didn't you ever join a local church? Why is it that the Lord was leading you to the mission field but you kept putting it off and putting it off? The music you listen to is a grey area choice. The amount of time you spend in the Word of God versus the time you spent watching television is a grey area choice. When you have this misunderstanding that it is just

going to be nothing but a great of Christ and there is no whatsoever, that is simply Christian will stand before their lives. So every single choices you made. #2, you are

Two absolute biblical truths: #1: You are going to stand before the King some day #2: You are going to bow the knee

welcoming into the body accountability wrong. Every single Jesus and account for adult will account for the going to bow the knee.

Whether you like it or not, you are going to bow. May I make it real clear? The Sovereign God of the Universe is going to make sure that you bow the knee to His Son. You are going to acknowledge that Jesus is Kyrios. Whether you are a Muslim, whether you are a Hindu, it won't matter. It will not matter. You will not stand there as a free willed being resisting God the Father when He says, "Bow." You will not stand there as an arrogant dude and raise up your chest and decide "You don't know who I am." When we see the Sovereign God of the Universe, you will bow. And you will confess to the glory of God the Father that Jesus is Kyrios. Muhammed is not Kyrios. Buddha is not Kyrios. Jesus is Kyrios and He is not sharing it with anyone. Joseph Smith won't be up there. Mary Baker Eddy won't be up there. There is no one that is going to share it.

Two thoughts: How are you caring for your grey area management and are you ready to bow the knee to King Jesus?