

PAUL THE APOSTLE

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Written Before and After His Conversion

ROMANS 14

The Will of God

Chapter 14 theme: *Keeping Peace.*

Chapter highlights:

- **Disputable matters.**
- **Live for God.**
- **Strong and weak.**
- **You are what you eat.**
- **Our first loyalty.**

Nik'isóó t'áadoo baa nánít'íní

1 Diné bi'oodlą' doo bidziilígíí éí k'é dabidohní,
nidi bintsékees t'áá sahdii át'éhígíí biniinaa
t'áadoo bił ałghada'doht'áhí.

The Law of Liberty

Receive one who is weak in the faith,
but not to disputes over doubtful
things.

Catch the little foxes.

2 Diné ła'da bi'oodłą' binahjì' ch'iyáán t'áá
silí'ígíí yiyáą dooleelgo éí yidooyíł, nidi diné
bi'oodłą' doo bidziilígíí éí nanise' bił da'adánii
t'éiyá yiyá.

3 Diné t'áá azlí'ígíí jiyáanii éí náánáła' diné doo
yiyáanii t'áadoo bilááh ánisht'é jiníziní doo,
áádóó nanise' t'éiyá jiyáanii éí t'áá azlí'ígíí
yiyáanii t'áadoo baa níjít'íní doo, háálá Diyin
God bił nilįgo nábidiiłtį.

For one believes he may eat all
things, but he who is weak eats only
vegetables.

Let not him who eats despise him
who does not eat, and let not him
who does not eat judge him who eats;
for God has received him.

In God's Kingdom, we are all the same height.

Wrap-up by verses:

- ❑ Acting as the judge of another in disputable matters is contrary to the Word of God. We are not to judge others when it comes to disputable matters. That is God's job, vs. 1-3.

Study question:

What does the term “doubtful things” mean throughout Romans 14?

4 Náánáŋa' naat'aanii yá naal'a'í **baa nánít'íigo**
ha'át'íish biniyé baa nánít'í? Jó, yá'át'éehgo
nijilnishgo, doodaii' doo yá'át'ééhgóó
nijilnishgo, éí hananit'a'í t'éiyá bee bóhólníihgo
haa nídóot'íiŋ. Hanaanish yá'át'éehgo ájoolíiŋ
doo, háálá hó Diyin God hadziil áhósingó
yíneel'á.

Who are you to **judge** another's
servant? To his own master he stands
or falls. Indeed, he will be made to
stand, for God is able to make him
stand.

Mind your Master.

Judge – *condemn.*

“Actually, all of us differ from others in significant ways. We Christians have different opinions about what a believer should and shouldn’t do. Some think women should be ordained; others violently disagree.... These differences tended then and now to divide believers into subgroups of “them” and “us.” And all such antagonistic divisions are harmful to community! All distort the unity and ministry of Jesus’ church.” – *Larry Richards, author of The Book of Romans, the Smart Guide to the Bible Series.*



5 Diné ła'da yoołkáałii ła' t'ah atisígo át'éego yidísín leh, nidi diné ła' náánásdzí, éí yoołkáałii t'áá altso aheelt'éego yidísín leh. Bini'dii diné t'ááłá'í nítínígo t'áá bí doo bił naaki danilíí góne' yaa nitsídaakees.

6 T'áá háiida ła'a jį hodíłzinígíí jidísinii éí Bóhólníihii hoł nilíigo jidísingo ájít'í. Áádóó t'áá háiida ła'a jį hodíłzinígíí doo jidísín da nidi Bóhólníihii hoł nilí. Diné ła'da t'áá azlį'ígíí jiyáanii éí ałdó' Bóhólníihii hoł nilíigo t'áá azlį'ígíí jiyą, háálá Diyin God bich'į' ahééh jinízingo ájít'í. T'áá azlį'ígíí doo yiyáanii éí ałdó' Bóhólníihii bił nilíigo doo t'áá azlį'ígíí yiyąą da, áádóó Diyin God yich'į' ahééh nízingo át'í.

One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

Follow the Leader.

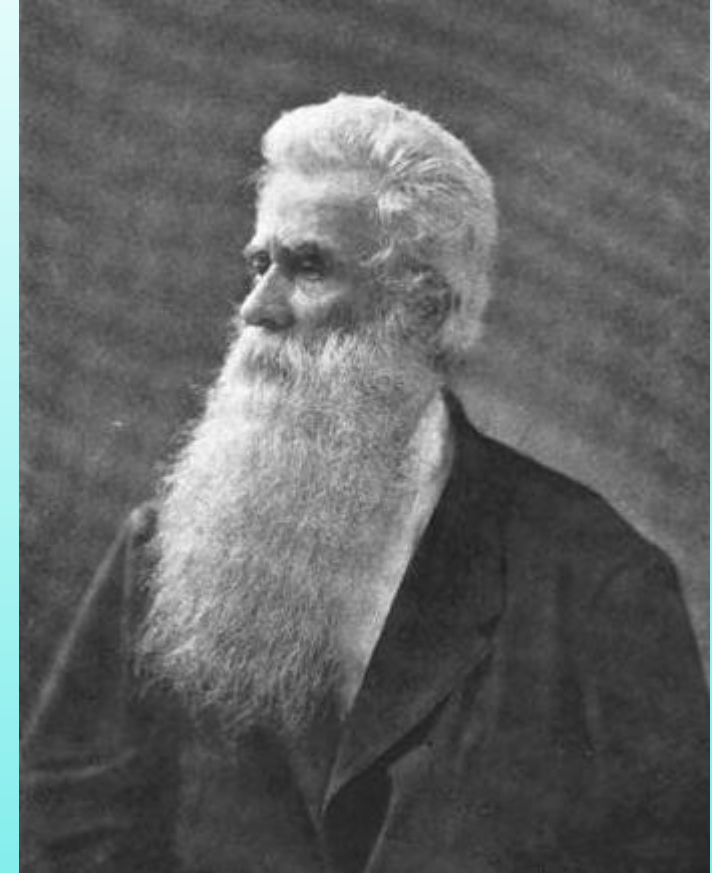
7 Diné doo ła' t'áá ádííghahígo hináa da, índa
diné doo ła' t'áá ádííghahígo daatsaah da.

8 Dahinii'náago Bóhólníihii bá dahinii'ná, índa
danii'néego Bóhólníihii bá danii'né. Éí baa
dahinii'náago, éí doodaléi' danii'néego
Bóhólníihii bii' daniidlí.

For none of us lives to himself, and
no one dies to himself.

For if we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die, we die to the Lord.
Therefore, whether we live or die, we
are the Lord's.

We belong to God , our life and our death are ordered by Him; We accountable to Him for the use we make of our liberty, in things uncommanded; and if we make a right use of that liberty, we do glorify God living or dying, and are the property of the Lord, not of one another.”



William S. Plumer

1802-1880

American Clergy

Wrap-up by verses:

- ❑ God accepts both the weak and the strong and commands the strong not to look down on the brother who differs from him. Divergent behaviors exist in the Body of Christ. Whether it is food or drink, sacred days, or the eating of meat, we should all do as unto the Lord and not criticize those who disagree with us, vs. 4-9.

Study question:

What does Paul mean when he talks about the strong and the weak believer?

According to Paul, Judging a fellow believer is wrong. Why?

9 Háálá daneeznánígíí índa dahinánígíí éí
Bóhólníihii hwee bóhólníih dooleeł biniyé
Christ daaztsá áádóó hinááh násdłíí’.

10 Ha'át'iisha' biniyé nik'is baa nánít'í? Éí
doodaléi' nisha' ha'át'íi biniyé nik'is jiiníłá?
Háálá t'áá áníiltso Christ bibikáá'dóó
ánihwíit'aah bidááhdóó deidiidziįłgo nihaa
nídahódóot'įįł.

For to this end Christ died and rose
and lived again, that He might be Lord
of both the dead and the living.

But why do you judge your brother?
Or why do you show contempt for
your brother? For we shall all stand
before the judgment seat of Christ.

Who you to judge?

11 Jó, Diyin God bizaad bee ak'e'ashchíinii ání:

*Ts'ídá t'áá aaníí hinishná, ní Bóhólníihii,
t'áádóo nídí ałdó' diné t'áá altso shich'į'
nitsidazhdidoogoh.
T'áá ádzíłtso Diyin God jíłį, dashijiníi doo.*

12 Ákohgo t'ááłá'í niitínigo Diyin God bich'į'
ádaa nidahodiilnih.

For it is written:

*“As I live, says the Lord,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to
God.”*

So then each of us shall give account
of himself to God.

Tips to keep you accountable:

1. Place yourself under the leadership of godly leaders who will disciple you.
2. Develop a relationship with two or three people who will hold you
3. accountable. These are friends that walk with the Lord and keep **close accounts**.
3. Get into the habit of Bible reading, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
4. Pray for ways to share your faith in Christ; stay humble and real.
5. Develop a regular habit of worship and praise where the Word is taught.
6. As you get your footing, reach out o others and build relationships.

Close accounts – *deal with sinful attitudes and actions quickly.*

“It is not the law which will demand an account from us but Christ. You see how Paul has released us from the fear of the law.”



John Chrysostom

347 AD - 407 AD

Archbishop of Constantinople

“What a wonderful future [and present] God has for people who accepts grace It is almost too good to be true. When George MacDonald, the great Scottish preacher, was talking with his son about the glories of the future, his little boy interrupted and said, “It seems too good to be true, Daddy.” ... “Nay, laddy, it is so good it must be true!”

Chuck Swindoll

American
Evangelical
Pastor



Nik'is t'áadoo naníltl'aí

13 Éí baq̄ haa'ísha' doo ahaa nínáádeiit'íj da doo,
nidi nihik'isóó ła' yik'ee baq̄hági ádooníłii,
doodaii' bidínóoltł'ahii t'áadoo bidáahjì'
adahoh'níłi dooleełjì bee hasht'e'nitsídadoohkos.

14 Bóhólníihii Jesus binahjì' doo shił naaki
nilíggóó díi shił bééhoozin, t'áá altso
yá'adaat'éeh nidi doo yá'adaat'éeh da jinízinígíí
éi t'áá ádííghahígo doo hoł yá'át'éeh da.

Therefore let us not judge one
another anymore, but rather resolve
this, not to put a stumbling block or
a cause to fall in our brother's way.

The Law of Love

I know and am convinced by the
Lord Jesus that there is nothing
unclean of itself; but to him who
considers anything to be unclean,
to him it is unclean.

You are what you eat.

Paul Roots for Reconciliation

Paul is determined to bring this clash between believers to a godly conclusion. There are two issues to confront:

- 1. They disagreed about what to eat.**
- 2. They were passing judgment on one another.**

Paul reasons with his readers. He exhorts them to think of each other,

Paul was able to see the Roman's situation from at least three different angles.

- 1. He saw the difficulty the Jews were going through because he was a Jew himself and had for most of his life lived by the laws of the Old Covenant.**
- 2. He saw the Gentiles' temptation to look down on the Jews because he shared their belief that no food was unclean.**
- 3. He saw the situation from a Christ-like perspective because Paul's first loyalty was to God and God's kingdom.**



“The weak hold false beliefs about things like food and special days that they would use as criteria for not accepting others in the community who act more in line with the boldness and freedom of Jesus’ faithfulness.

The strong are inclined to accept the weak only in order to attack their superstitious beliefs with rational arguments, acting like philosophers subjecting the foolish to therapy of the passions of reasons.”

– **Stanley K. Stowers**,
Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies

15 Yíníyá'ígíí nik'isóó ła' bee baąh
nahwííníłkaadgo t'áadoo bahat'aadí doo
ayóó'ííní'níi da síníłí'. Yíníyá'ígíí bee Christ bá
daaztsáanii ła' bee wóólchqoh lágo.

Yet if your brother is grieved because
of your food, you are no longer
walking in love. Do not destroy with
your food the one for whom Christ
died.

Food isn't worth it.



F.F. Bruce

1910 – 1990

Scottish Evangelical
Scholar

“Love takes precedence over knowledge. If the “strong” do not care about the sensitivities of the “weak” but openly fly in the face of them, what will the results be? Will the “weak” be distressed, ruined, for example by their being led to act against their consciences” Will they be put off and made to backslide as a result of the example of the “strong” which to them is sin? If so, the overall loss is surely far, far greater than the net gain.”

16 Ha'át'íida nihił yá'át'éehgo t'aadoo nihits'ąą'
nichó'ógo ádaahłíłii baa yáti'í.

Therefore do not let your good be
spoken of as evil;

From good to bad.

17 T'áá ha'át'íhígíida yidáanii, doodaii' t'áá
ha'át'íhígíida yidláanii éí Diyin God bee
bóhólníihgo bił haz'áanii doo bídéét'i' da, nidi
ts'ídá t'áá ákogi é'ét'é áádóó k'é hwiindzin índa ił
hózhó Níłch'i Diyinii eidii'aahii bídéét'i'.

18 Háálá ákót'éego Christ bá nijil'a'ii Diyin God
bił yá'ájít'ééh, áádóó diné ałdó' bił t'áá ákóó
ájít'é.

for the kingdom of God is not eating
and drinking, but righteousness and
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

For he who serves Christ in [e]these
things is acceptable to God and
approved by men.

Keep first things first.

Wrap-up by verses:

- ❑ The strong ought not be a stumbling block to the weak. They should not practice their freedom at the expense of another's spiritual development, *vs. 10-18*.

Study question:

How might some believers be stumbling blocks to other believers?

What does Paul mean when he says, “Do not let your good be spoken of as evil?”

19 Éí baq haa'íshq' bee k'é náhoodleelii áádóó
t'áá áníiltso ahidinílnáago danihidziil
ánihidoolíikii hádeiit'íi doo.

20 Daahsánígíí biniinaa Diyin God yinaalnishii
t'áadoo danółtł'aí. Daadaanii t'áá ałtso
yá'adaat'ééh, nidi t'áá háiida ha'át'íhída jiyánígíí
biniinaa ła' baqhági át'í ádajile'go t'áá éí bee doo
ákóó ájít'íi da.

21 Atsį' jiyáagoda áádóó wáin jidláagoda,
doodaii' ha'át'íhída bee hak'is baqhági át'íigo
áníjiil'íihii, doodaii' bidínóoltł'ahii, doodaii'
bi'oodłą' doo bidziilgóó ábidoolíikii doo baa
nijigháájí yá'át'ééh.

Therefore let us pursue the things
which make for peace and the things
by which one may edify another.

Do not destroy the work of God for
the sake of food. All things indeed are
pure, but it is evil for the man who
eats with offense.

It is good neither to eat meat nor drink
wine nor do anything by which your
brother stumbles or is offended or is
made weak.

Fostering fellowship.

Wrap-up by verses:

- ❑ Christians should remember that they are to be loyal to God, not their freedoms. God calls for whatever action will bring peace and mutual edification, *vs. 19-21*.

22 Kódaat'éhígíí baa nitsíníkeesgo
yisínídląądíí éí Diyin God t'éiyá bił
bééhózingo íínisin. Jó, t'áadoo át'éhé da
jinízingo ájooníłígíí doo bee ák'íhojit'ááhgóó
baą hoł hózhóq doo.

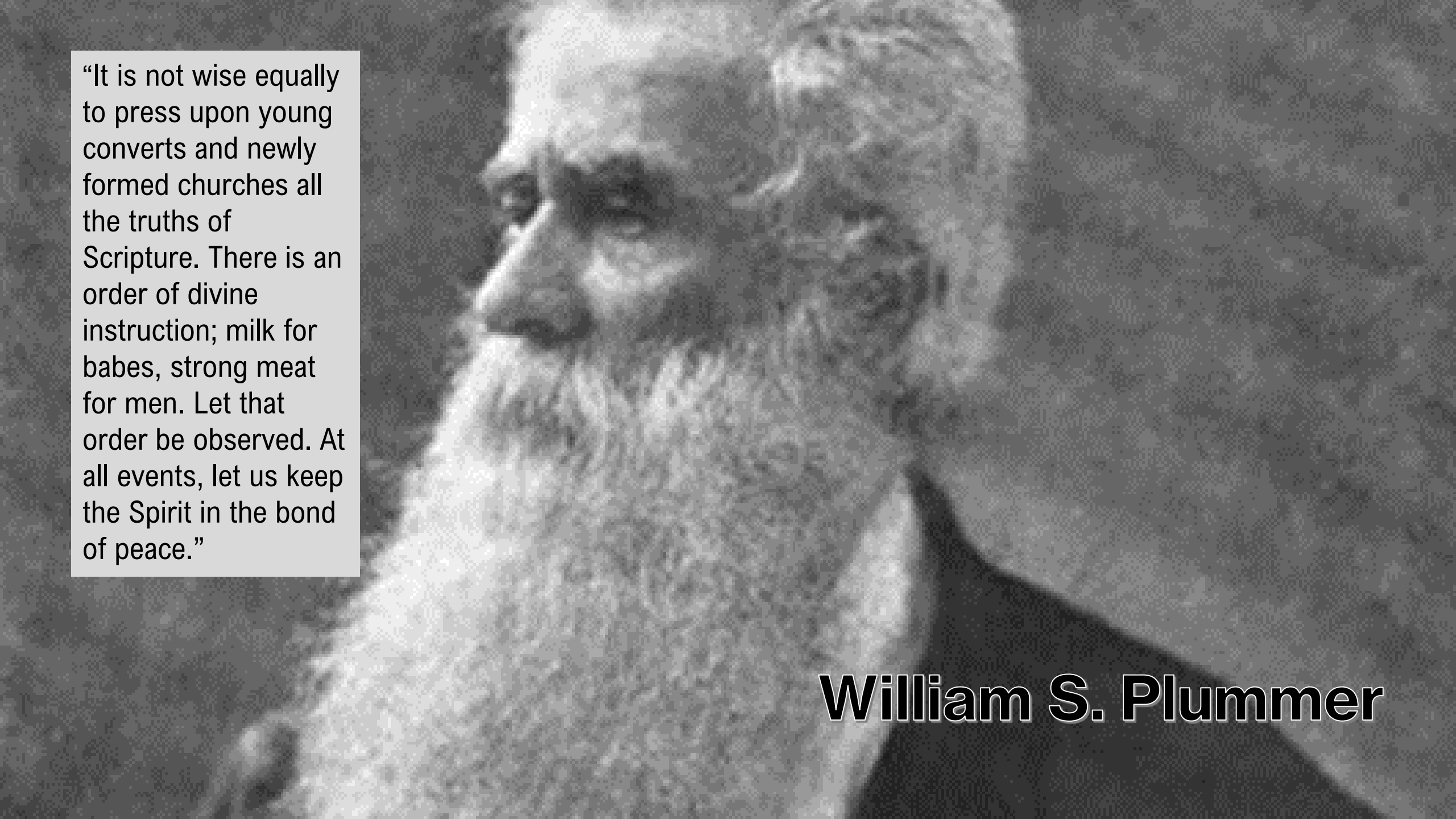
Do you have faith? Have it to yourself
before God. Happy is he who does not
condemn himself in what he approves.

Paul's beatitude.

23 Nidi t'áá háiida hoł naaki nilįgo ajiyánígíí éí
há nihoot'ą, háálá doo hwe'oodlą' bik'ehgo
ajiyąą da. Jó, doo hwe'oodlą' binahjì' ájooníłii
éí ádił ni'iidzíh át'é.

But he who doubts is condemned if
he eats, because he does not eat from
faith; for whatever is not from faith
is sin.

From faith.



“It is not wise equally to press upon young converts and newly formed churches all the truths of Scripture. There is an order of divine instruction; milk for babes, strong meat for men. Let that order be observed. At all events, let us keep the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

William S. Plummer

Wrap-up by verses:

- ❑ The strong are to be blessed by exercising their freedoms in private. The weak are to act as their consciences direct them, vs. 22-23.