**A TIME THAT TELLS**

**Romans 15:1-13**

**INTRODUCTION**

In light of the current happenings and the concerns that permeate the minds of members of the Churches of Christ, it seems that the admonition derived from the apostle Paul has appropriate application during a time like this. It seems that we are witnessing, as well as, participating in A TIME THAT TELLS.

**PREAMBLE**

Strong & weak belong to the Lord & will stand before Him (**Rom. 14:1, 7-9, 12-13**)

Strong are to accept the conscience of the weak (**Romans 14:14-15, 19)**

1. In the aforementioned truths, each is to pursue things that make for peace.

2. Also, note that the aforementioned principle is accompanied by caveats.

 a. Caveats – a warning, admonition, perhaps condition (rcs sr).

**BODY OF LESSON**

I. **A SELFLESS TIME** (**Romans 15:1-4**)

 A. The emphasis is not to be placed on self! The strong are to bear, support, and

 accept the convictions / opinions of those weaker (**Romans 15:1**).

 1. Note the term “ought” in **Romans 15:1**. It carries the idea of the strong

 having a debt / obligation to help the weak with burdens (**Galatians 6:2**).

 B. The aforementioned practice / principle is not intended that the weak

 opinion / conscience control / direct the church.

 1. We are to give precedence not to offend a brother’s weak conscience

 (**Philippians 2:3-8, 1 Corinthians 10:33**).

C. Balancing the principle – Like we can’t please self first, we ought not put

 pleasing men before pleasing God (**Galatians 1:10**).

 D. To destroy another, even by lack of encouragement, is to destroy the work of

 God (**Romans 14:20**).

 1. The distinction is in our motivation (**John 12:42-43**).

 E. Remember that Jesus Christ is our example!

 1. He did not please himself. He never demanded that others serve Him. We

 see Him constantly take the servants role ((**John 13:3-5, 21:12-13**).

II. **A TIME FOR THE TEXT** (**Romans 15:4-6**)

1. God’s Word is for US [examples] (**2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Corinthians 10:11**)

III. **A TIME FOR ONE ANOTHER** (**Romans 15:7-9**)

 (We are to do with one another because Jesus Christ did with us)

1. Prerequsites for a time for one another (**Romans 14:10-11 God will judge**)
2. Consider God’s use of Saul / Paul (**1 Timothy 1:15-16**)
3. Jesus came for all **(Romans 15:8, 1 Peter 3:18)**

IV. **A TIME OF HOPE FOR ALL** (**Romans 15:8-13**)

***SCRIPTURE***

**Romans 15:1-13 (KJV)**
1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
2 Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.
3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:
6 That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.
8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:
9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.
10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.
11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.
12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.
13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 14:1 (KJV)**
1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations.

**Romans 14:7-9 (KJV)**
7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.
8 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.
9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

**Romans 14:12-13 (KJV)**
12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

**Romans 14:14-15 (KJV)**
14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that *there is* nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.
15 But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

**Romans 14:19 (KJV)**
19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

**Galatians 6:2 (KJV)**
2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

**Philippians 2:3-8 (KJV)**
3 *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

**1 Corinthians 10:33 (KJV)**
33 Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

**Galatians 1:10 (KJV)**
10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

**John 12:42-43 (KJV)**
42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:
43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

**Romans 14:20 (KJV)**
20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it is* evil for that man who eateth with offence.

**John 13:3-5 (KJV)**
3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;
4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.
5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

**John 21:12-13 (KJV)**
12 Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.
13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**16** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

**2 Timothy 2:15**

**15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**1 Corinthians 10:6**

**6** Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

**Romans 14:10-11**

**10** But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. **11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

**1 Peter 3:18**

**18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

**1 Timothy 1:15-16**

**15** This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. **16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.