

## New Morning Magical

### “Keep it together” gets a whole new meaning!

We'll get into the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians today, but first, let's finish in Romans, beginning in Chapter 14, verse 14:

14 I have perceived and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is contaminating of itself, except that the one reckoning anything to be contaminating, to that one it is contaminating.

Paul is speaking of food and drink here, because, again, for the sake of the many Jewish believers in the Roman ecclesia. Jews, as you know, had lots of dietary restrictions, and still do!

Last year, one of the top chefs in Kansas City was asked to cater a party where Kosher had to be kept. My son helped him out and he told me about the Rabbi who was standing by at all times to be sure that all the rules were observed. This extended to insisting that any flesh in the meal was bought from a kosher butcher.

In verse 14 of Romans 14, Paul declares that all those restrictions had been removed, because, *“nothing is contaminating of itself.”* Paul also recognizes the significance of one's belief in this matter, and presumably other matters too, when he says, *“Except that the one reckoning anything to be contaminating, to that one it is contaminating.”* In other words, if you believe that some food is contaminating, it is!

Paul is completely on target here, because what he says in verse 14 is exactly what science has proven within the last 20 years: Your beliefs determine your outcome; in this case, the food you eat is not contaminating unless you believe it is!

20 Not on account of food demolish the work of God. All, indeed, is clean, but it is evil to the man who with stumbling is eating.

When you're around people who restrict their diets in certain ways, simply respect those restrictions for yourself in their presence. By the same token, take care what you prepare for others to eat, to the extent that you know of any restrictions. In both instances, you uphold the Father's work in other people's lives.

21 It is ideal not to be eating meat, nor yet to be drinking wine, nor yet to do aught by which your brother is stumbling, or is being snared or weakened.

22 **The faith which you have, have for yourself in God's sight.** Happy is he who is not judging himself in that which he is attesting.

23 Now he [or she] who is doubting if he [or she] should be eating is condemned, seeing that it is not out of faith. Now everything which is not out of faith is sin.

Notice that doubt cancels faith, which makes sense, doesn't it? Faith means trust in Hebrew, so where doubt is, trust can't live, and vice versa.

Paul finishes verse 23 with another of his startling declarations: "*Now everything which is not out of faith is sin.*" Again, this makes perfect sense; remember that "sin" means missing the mark; well. Then if the mark is trust, as in trusting God, or faith, if you prefer, as in believing God; then anything short of believing or trusting the Father is missing the mark, or sin, by definition.

Verse 22 is also enlightening: "*The faith which you have, have for yourself in God's sight.*" The degree to which you trust the Father, and we might add, your relationship with Him, is between you and Him alone. Now in Chapter 15:

29 Now I am aware that, in coming to you, I shall be coming with the blessing of Christ which fills.

This phrase, "*the blessing of Christ which fills,*" is so rich, I think, and Paul says that he's coming to Rome with this, as if he's driving a big tanker truck, full of Christ's blessing, ready to fill up the reservoir in everyone's heart and mind.

There's more in Romans, but it's not germane to our theme, so we'll move next to Paul's letter to the Colossians, and we begin in Chapter 1, verse 9:

9 Therefore we also, from the day on which we hear, do not cease praying for you and requesting that you may be filled full with the realization of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

Don't we all want to be "*filled full with the realization of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*"? Paul is saying, here, "*I don't want you to miss anything that God has for you.*"

10 you to walk **worthily** of the Lord for all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the realization of God;

We see here the word “worthily” again, not “worthy,” meaning you already are worthy, so demonstrate that in all your behavior and speech.

What does Paul mean by “*growing in the realization of God*”? Realization also means recognition in Greek; so Paul is praying that we come to see the Father in every aspect of our lives, and to know Him more intimately in our hearts and minds.

11 being endued with all power, in accord with the might of His glory, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Endued means “make-able,” so here Paul is extending his prayer to include the ability to exercise spiritual power and authority, as he says, “*in accord with the might of His glory.*” This power and authority, Paul says is “*for all [which is also for every] endurance and patience with joy.*” The power and authority that you can live in is to make you able to endure with patience and joy. In this wicked eon, you and I need this kind of power and authority!

We’re not even to the mid-point in one of Paul’s famous run-on sentences that began in verse 9, so hang tight:

12 at the same time giving thanks to the Father, Who makes you competent for a part of the allotment of the saints, in light,

13 Who rescues us out of the jurisdiction of Darkness, and transports us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

In Christ, you and I live in a realm outside of “*the jurisdiction of Darkness.*” We live instead in, “*the kingdom of the Son of His love.*” Don’t you feel sometimes as if you aren’t really a part of the world that pitches all around you? This is why.

14 in Whom we are having the deliverance [***this is what salvation means – deliverance***], the pardon of sins,

15 Who is the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature,

This is one of the most important reasons why Yeshua and the Father are different beings: “*the image of the invisible God*” is not the SAME as the invisible God; plus, Paul says that Christ is “*Firstborn of every creature.*” The son is Firstborn. In Hebrews, He is called “*God’s creative Original.*” The Father can neither be created, nor born, but the Son can be and was.

16 for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him,

17 and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him.

When this text reads “*all*,” it contains the article, so it should read “*THE ALL*,” which is followed by all that is included (read it again). “*THE all is created through Him and for [or into] Him, and He is before all, and THE all has its cohesion in Him.*”

The Son of God, Whom we know as Yeshua the Anointed, which is what Messiah means, “contains” the entire creation, if you will; The all was created in Him, through Him, and for Him. He was first AND He holds the whole thing together.

Paul’s last phrase in verse 17 never made as much sense to me as it does today. Think of it: It is through Christ that all the realms we know of exist. That’s what verse 16 means. It is because of Christ that the eons have progressed and are progressing now toward their conclusions in perfect order, whether we understand that order or not. It is through Christ in His official capacity that the consummation of the eons will occur and no one will be lost forever, let alone in flaming torment. It has been, and is today, Christ’s job to shepherd the Father’s sons and daughters in humanity into their celestial destiny, while, at the same time, holding the entire universe together. None of it works without Him. It all flies apart in total chaos without Him, which is why Paul says, “*THE all has its cohesion in Him.*” When scientists talk about the fabric of the universe that somehow holds it all together, they’re talking about Christ.

18 And He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, Firstborn from among the dead, that in all He may be becoming first, ***[by all means He is first; He’s earned it!]***

Pay attention now to all the “Him’s” as we read verses 19-22, because they all refer to Christ:

19 for in Him the entire complement delights to dwell,

20 and through Him to reconcile all to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens.

21 And you, being once estranged and enemies in comprehension, by wicked acts, yet now He reconciles

22 by His body of flesh, through His death, to present you holy and flawless and unimpeachable in His sight.

Why does Paul use the word "reconcile" here instead of conciliate? Look at verses 21-22, for example:

21 And you, being once estranged and enemies in comprehension, by wicked acts, yet now He reconciles  
22 by His body of flesh, through His death, to present you holy and flawless and unimpeachable in His sight.

The reconciliation here is between us humans, who are diverse in our beliefs, often contentious and unwilling to compromise. This isn't about us and God; that's conciliation. Reconciliation is between you and me; blacks and whites, if I dare say it; Jews and Christians; name the groups of people on the Earth, who do not like one another, much less see eye to eye, and you have a picture of who Paul is including in the word reconcile.

It is Christ's death that makes our reconciliation to one another possible, and all *"to present you holy and flawless and unimpeachable in His [Christ's] sight."*

And we finish today with verse 23, which Barbara and I pray for you:

23 since surely you are persisting in the faith, grounded and settled and are not being removed from the expectation of the evangel which you hear which is being heralded in the entire creation which is under heaven of which I, Paul, became the dispenser.

Finally, Paul reminds us and the Colossians that he became the dispenser of his unique evangel; one which sets you free in every aspect of your life, your character, and reaches deep into your mind and heart; as Paul gives his devotion and service first to Christ and then to us.

So until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;  
May Yahweh light up His face toward you  
and be gracious to you;  
May Yahweh lift His face to you  
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN