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Romans 14:5-9

5. “One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

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

7. For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

8. for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

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

With the holidays fast approaching, I thought this would be a very timely passage of Scripture. In the religious realm, there are so many different perspectives and convictions on celebrating various holidays. Whether or not we celebrate any given day of the week or of the year, in the context of today's Scripture, it is a matter of one's own opinion. To this end, verse 5 states: “Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.”

As most of us are fully aware, last night was Halloween. To which I was tempted to pounce on as “the devil’s holiday.” I’d highlight, of course, verse 6 of today’s passage which says: “He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord. . . .” But then one must also recognize the passage immediately following today’s section of Scripture, starting in verse 10: “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.” Verse 12 concludes by stating: “So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

The truth of the matter is that the devil doesn’t play by the rules. But we Christians, who are engaged in the great battle between good and evil, must war according to the rules of engagement as laid down by our glorious King Jesus. He says we are not to judge, that is “condemn,” others on their way of celebrating any given day. Even if the devil has sugar-coated one of the vilest of celebrations of death, spiritualism, and contact with the dead on October 31st.

We, however, are not to be naive, but we are to understand what the will of the Lord is. And especially with regards to our young children. The intention of our heart concerns our Lord the most. How we celebrate is our liberty. Verse 8 of today’s Scripture states it this way: “For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord” And specifically again in verse 6: “He

who observes the day, observes it for the Lord.”

So as we go into the holidays; namely Thanksgiving and Christmas, celebrate your days for the Lord. How you celebrate is your own business and your families’--no one else’s! So, if anyone religiously tries to give you a hard time about how you or your family celebrate the holidays, know what the will of the Lord is. Accusing the brethren is the devil’s game, not ours. And with regards to the holidays especially: “Let no one act as your judge.”

Each one of us is to be fully convinced in his own mind as to how he will observe each day. And of course, the Scriptures are the basis for we Christians to become “fully convinced” for ourselves and those under our charge. As long as we live each day for the Lord Jesus, His grace is sufficient.

Praise God for our liberty in Christ. May we use it well, each and every day.