



Sermon Text: Romans 14:7-9

Sermon Date: August 7, 2016

This Sunday we returned to Romans 14 to reexamine verses 7-9. In this passage, Paul infuses the mundane details of life with astonishing significance by linking them to the lordship of Christ. Pastor Justin's main goal was to show that **meaning in life and death is only found in the reality of Christ's lordship.**

Paul connects the seemingly insignificant issues of eating meat, observing days, and other aspects of Christian freedoms with Christ's reign as King. In these little details of life, the stuff that will never make a dent in human history, we can bring real honor to the eternal King of all creation. Paul shows us that **it's not the importance of what we do, but the importance of the One for whom we do it that gives our lives meaning.** So how do we live and die to bring the Lord honor?

LIVING TO THE LORD

1. **Recognize the all-encompassing Lordship of Christ.** Jesus is Lord over everything in all the Universe, including all the details of our lives. Abraham Kuyper said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'" We must consciously recognize Christ's lordship in every area of our lives.
2. **Live for the all-surpassing Honor of Christ.** Since He is Lord of every detail, live for Him in every detail—as inconsequential as they may seem. Do everything for the honor of your King. Nothing you do for Him is overlooked. He sees. He cares. He rewards. It means something!

DYING TO THE LORD

1. **We die trusting in the Sovereignty of Christ.** None of our deaths will be accidents. All of them will be orchestrated according to the design of our sovereign God; therefore, we trust Him. We trust His plan and His wisdom. When we die trusting in the Sovereignty of Christ, we bring Him honor.
2. **We die resting in the sufficiency of Christ.** As the terrifying prospect of standing before an all-holy God draws closer, we do not deny our sin or diminish our sin. Yet in the face of these truths, we cling in confident faith to the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. We rest in Christ. When we die resting in the sufficiency of Christ, we bring him honor.
3. **We die rejoicing in the supremacy of Christ.** Like Paul in Philippians 1, we honor Christ in our death by rejoicing that "to die is gain." The reason death is gain is because Christ is supremely satisfying— "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (Phil 1:23). When we die rejoicing in the supremacy of Christ, seeing Him as far better, we bring him honor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
- 2) Do you ever feel like your life is meaningless? Why do you feel this way?
- 3) How does the fact that Jesus is Lord over your little things change the way you see them? How can you do them in a way that brings Him honor?
- 4) Why is it important to know how to die in such a way that brings honor to the Lord?