

Saturday, April 30

Proverb for the Day: "The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands." 14:1

Read 1 Peter 1, which Pastor will be preaching from tomorrow.

Items for Prayer

- Friends In C. A.—Pray for wisdom, strength, and perseverance as persecution continues to increase.
- Fran Pope and Danny Burnett and family
- Kim Hibbert: Pray for the Bible studies I lead on Fridays. Pray that I would grow in trust concerning things that are out of my control.
- False teachers spreading error in the name of Christ, 1 Tim 4:1–3; 2 John 7
- Selfless, sacrificial love for all Christians, Acts 6:1
- Tendency to be “now” oriented rather than Christ and eternity, Matt 6:33; 2 Tim 4:1

The Lord's Day, May 1

Proverb for the Day: "He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him." 14:2

Think back on God's truth you heard or read this past week, and how you could use that to minister to the saints today as the church gathers.

Items for Prayer

- Izaak, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel, Camp—Praise the Lord for the first OBF camp of the year!
- Pam Potter
- Leah Michalakes: Praise God for the power of His Word! "The commands of the Lord are radiant giving light to the eyes!" Prayer for the children to love God first with all their heart, and to trust Him to lead them in life.
- Christ-likeness at home and “work,” Col 3:18–4:1
- Not judge by externals, Jas 2:1; 2 Cor 5:16
- Persevering faithfulness in perilous times, Revelation 2–3; 21:7

Orwell Bible Church, Daily Devotional, April 25–May 1, 2022

Weekly Memory Verse

“Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection,” Col 3:14

Hymn of the Week: Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
that mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone You!
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You;
I crucified You.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave has sinned, and the Son has suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation;
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay You,
I do adore You, and will ever pray You,
think on Your pity and Your love unswerving,
not my deserving.

*Use your smartphone to
hear this hymn's tune:*



What is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7)?

The Fear of the Lord is a *reverent faith* in *Jesus Christ*, exclusively *loving, obeying, and worshiping* he whom I will give an *account* to.

Monday, April 25

Proverb for the Day: "Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous, good shall be repaid." 13:21

Romans 12

How should believers live? Paul addresses this in chapters 12-16. He begins with a foundation in 12:1-2. Those who have received God's mercies must live a life dedicated to living like Christ (12:1), not like the world (v. 2).

Christians must be humble, not allowing differing gifts to be a source of pride but rather faithfully serving through such to edify the church (vv. 3-8). Six marks of a righteous, transformed life are then listed: righteous love (v. 9a), values (v. 9b), brotherhood (v. 10), effort (v. 11), devotion (v. 12), and care (v. 13). Christians must have righteous desires toward those who hate them (v. 14), righteous affection toward the saints (v. 15), and righteous attitudes toward every believer (v. 16).

Even when persecuted, God's will for suffering believers (vv. 17-21) is that they do not seek revenge but show grace by doing good (v.17b), being peaceful (v.18c), and showing compassion (v. 20a). Persecuted saints must trust the Lord, leaving persecutors in God's hands either to judge them (v. 19b) or to change their hearts (v. 20b).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Christian, think about God's mercies toward you (v. 1)! Review from chapters 1-3 how lost you were and from chapters 4-5 about the salvation Jesus gave you. Think back to chapters 6-8 how you then should live, no longer giving yourself to serve sin but righteousness, participating in the Holy Spirit's work in your heart. What did you deserve? What have you received? What is the only right response?
2. Christian, every day and throughout your day you must live out verses 1-2. What is said there is not a one-time crisis moment of dedication, but a life-long worshipful response with every aspect of your being to God. You must do this!
3. As you grow more like Christ and less like the world you will better know and understand God's will (v. 2). Consider the different people and life situations in this chapter: what is God's will for you for each of these? You won't know that if you think like the world! Change your thinking to Christ's!

Items for Prayer

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen, Argentina—Pray that Jose, Nicholas, and Omar will continue to take leadership in the church and pray for continued spiritual growth.

in what is good, simple concerning evil," v. 19b), identify ("note," v. 17), be separate from ("avoid them," v. 17), and stand in hope (v. 20).

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, Titus, and Seth Seawright, Thailand—Pray for the light of the Gospel to shine in people's hearts through our witness.
- Always increasing Christ-likeness of Christians, Col 1:9–11; Heb 5:12–14; 2 Pet 1:5–11
- Governing authorities, Acts 5:29; 1 Tim 2:1–6
- Christians' worship, 1 Cor 14:24–25

- Andy, Sharon, Jeff, Katie, and Trent Rupert, Calvary Baptist of Willard—Pray for wisdom and a good testimony as we interact with coworkers and others in the community.
- Open doors, Col 4:3
- Spirit-led, dependent, and empowered (tendency to follow our sin natures), Gal 5:16
- Always content in Christ, Phil 4:11–13

Friday, April 29

Proverb for the Day: “The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.” 13:25

Romans 16

Paul closes his letter to the Roman church by greeting those he knew there (vv. 1-16), warning of false teachers (vv. 17-20), and relaying greetings from brethren in the church at Corinth where he wrote from (vv. 21-23).

Paul said that a Christian woman, Phoebe (v. 1), is “a servant of the church in Cenchrea.” As the Greek word here for “servant” is the same used for “deacon” (cf. 1 Tim 3:8), some suggest Phoebe was a female deacon. However, as she carried this letter to the Roman church she was a *servant* of the Lord, assisting and helping. The same word is used of the government (13:4), preachers of the gospel (Eph 6:21), even Jesus (Rom 15:8)! Similarly, though Andronicus and Junia are called “apostles” (v. 7), the word in this context has the sense of “messenger” or “missionary” (cf. Acts 14:14).

In verse 25 “mystery” means *truth previously concealed but now presently revealed*, which Paul’s closing statement in verses 25-26 makes clear.

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Serving the Lord does not require holding an office or formal position. In fact, the office or position comes to those who have demonstrated that they *are* servants. One of the worst things a church can do is put someone in leadership with the hope that it will encourage them to get serious about the Lord!
2. Though the world does not remember the Christians’ names in verses 3-15, the Lord does. The world glories in appearance, ability, money, and knowledge, but the Lord does not (Jer 9:23). Rather, the Lord delights in one who loves him and lives for him (Jer 9:24) as these listed in Romans 16:3-15 did.
3. The church is responsible for guarding the church and the gospel against false teachers (vv. 17-19). Jesus’ commands regarding such are to examine (“be wise

- Satan and wicked spiritual forces, Mark 4:15; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 6:12, 18
- Sinful hearts of the lost, Rom 3:10–18; 2 Cor 4:3–4; Eph 4:18–19
- Our own struggles with sin, Matt 26:41; Rom 7:13–25

Tuesday, April 26

Proverb for the Day: “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.” 13:22

Romans 13

How should believers live in relation to the government and unbelievers? Chapter 13 details God’s will for these areas.

Christians must submit to government because God established it (v. 1), so to resist government is to resist God (v. 2). God established government to regulate human behavior (vv. 3-4). The right thing to do (v. 5) also involves paying taxes (v. 6) and having a right attitude and actions toward governing officials (v. 7). Don’t forget that when Paul wrote this Nero was the Roman emperor, a wicked ruler!

Christians must also fulfill their obligations (v. 8) and love others by living righteously among them (v. 9). The outcome of this kind of love is Christ-likeness (v. 10). Christians must live for Christ because Christ is coming (vv. 11-12a), so they must not live like the world but a holy life (v. 12b). Christians must not be controlled by their sin natures but by the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 13-14).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. God’s will for Christians in relation to human government is submission. Why has this always been hard? Because there have been bad rulers and Christians still have their sin natures. Why is it we too often think of “exceptions” to this (such as Acts 5:28-29)? While there *are* such, more often than not the problem is our hearts! Pray for grace to obey! Think about Jesus when he was on the earth, and how he interacted with human governing authorities!
2. God’s will is clearly given in the Scriptures (cf. vv. 9-10). Along the lines of the first point, put your focus and effort on showing you love the Lord with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul by obeying him!
3. Jesus is coming (vv. 11-12a)! Does this fact affect how you live now? There is a right and a wrong way to live. Live like Christ!

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar, India—Pray for Pastor Babu and Family as they minister.
- Boldness in the face of opposition and resistance, Acts 4:29; Eph 6:19

- Fear of and love for Christ, 2 Cor 5:11, 14
- Selflessness, Luke 9:23–26

Wednesday, April 27

Proverb for the Day: “Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, and for lack of justice there is waste.” 13:23

Romans 14

Romans 14:1-15:13 addresses how Roman Christians should view and interact with one another in light of different beliefs about things God created. The two issues were believers (1) looking down on and criticizing one another so that they did not edify but tore up one another, and (2) focusing on themselves so that they did not glorify God in their worship.

This passage (14:1-15:13) talks about two basic groups of people, the *strong* and *weak* in faith. “In faith” points to the fact that the issues here are not mere opinions or “personal convictions.” Faith has content, something from Scripture that is believed to be true. A “strong” Christian is one strong in his faith, a mature believer, and a “weak” Christian is an immature believer.

Some important points to note with this passage: (1) Paul does not identify who’s who here (whether Jew or Gentile). (2) The issues here deal with things *God created*, food and days. That must control application. Many Christians today wrongly say this passage deals with things that don’t matter, and then apply it to issues such as clothing, music, dancing, smoking, drinking, etc. things God *has* revealed truth about. (3) The strong in faith are correct, because God *has* spoken to the issues of food and days, (14:14, 20b; 15:1; cf. Mark 7:19; Acts 10:15; 11:9; Col 2:16–23; 1 Tim 4:1–5). Note that Paul says he is “strong” (15:1), a mature believer. (4) The strong in faith can cause the weak in faith to doubt, possibly resulting in their apostasy.

Christians (1) must not have a worldly assessment of and actions toward one another but a Christ-transformed outlook and actions (12:1-2), and (2) they must show a Spirit-controlled acceptance of one another to edify the church and glorify God.

In 14:1-13 Christians must accept one another because God accepts (vv. 1-4) and judges all believers (vv. 5-13). When Christians are controlled by the Spirit they will walk in love with one another (vv. 14-15), show the fruits of the Spirit (vv. 16-17), please God and be a blessing to others (v. 18), and will strive for peace and edification with believers rather than tear them down (vv. 19-23).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. Don’t despise or judge one another (vv. 3, 10, 13a).
2. Don’t be a stumbling block or cause another to fall away from the faith (v. 13b).
3. Be controlled by the Spirit to love one another (vv. 14-18).
4. Pursue what enables peace and mutual edification (vv. 19-23).

Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry, Chile—Pray for us as we rest and adjust to being back in the States for a few months.
- We will always be “going,” Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- Salvation of souls, 2 Thess 3:1
- Faithfulness, 1 Cor 1:18

Thursday, April 28

Proverb for the Day: “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” 13:24

Romans 15

Continuing from chapter 14, Paul concludes how mature and immature believers (“strong...weak”) should interact with one another by teaching that they must edify one another for God’s glory (vv. 1-13). Christian must bear with and receive one another so that they please each other for mutual edification (vv. 1-6), following the example of Christ who did not please himself (v. 3). Christians must also serve each other for the glory of God (vv. 7-13), again following Christ’s example who served others (v. 8).

Paul then describes the character of his ministry in verses 16-21 and tells the Roman church his hope to visit them soon and gain their help to then spread the gospel to Spain (vv. 22-33).

Truths to Nail Down and Meditate On

1. It is not God’s will for “weak,” immature believers to continue in immaturity. While they learn and grow mature believers (“strong”) must bear with immature believers (“weak,” v. 1).
2. Believers must please each other for mutual edification and hope (vv. 2-4).
3. Believers must be like-minded so they glorify God together (vv. 5-6).
4. Mature believers (“strong”) must serve immature believers (“weak”) by accepting them, just as Christ accepts every believer, so that God is glorified (14:1; 15:7-12).

Items for Prayer