

## **“PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY”**

### **Romans 14:7-12**

Message 1894

From the days of our first parents Adam and Eve, we have tried to lay responsibility for our actions on someone else. That’s what they did. When God found them hiding in the garden and asked them what they had done Adam blamed it on Eve and Eve blamed it on the serpent.

But God responded that each one must carry the responsibility for his deeds. That is personal accountability. We are all responsible for our own actions. It is essential for us today to think about what that means for action in this life determines the life after death.

The Apostle Paul teaches PERSONAL ACCOUNT-ABILITY in Romans 14:7-12,

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.*

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.*

12. *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Here the Apostle teaches us the certain distinct AREAS of life in which we are called to personal accountability.

**WE ARE ALL TO LIVE UNDER CHRIST’S LORDSHIP.** Even people who are not Christians in a sense are living under the lordship of Christ. They may not realize it but Jesus Christ is Lord over all. Satan is exercising certain rights in the world today but over and above all Jesus is Lord. Even those who do not recognize His lordship are living under His lordship.

Now that has to be more specifically true of Christians. Christians are especially subject to Him. So the Apostle Paul teaches us that, “whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord.” So we are under His lordship.

Let me refer to another Scripture in II Corinthians 5:6-8: “Therefore we are always confident knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” We Christians whether we die or live are under the lordship of Christ. Our commitment leaves us no choices.

So to become a Christian means to live under the lordship of Christ, under His direction and control. Therefore, no one has any superior rights. We are all to be under Christ’s lordship.

**WE ARE ALL TO STAND BEFORE CHRIST’S JUDGMENT SEAT.** The Apostle Paul tells us here that “Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”

I want you to see how essential His death and resurrection are for certain assurance. He both died and rose again. He came, He was born, He lived a life above sin and He died for our forgiveness. He arose triumphant over death.

Now all judgment is given to Him for “we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Listen to what Jesus said when He was speaking to the disciples one time in John 5:22,23. These verses undergird Paul’s statement that everyone should appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”

Therefore all other judgment has been taken away and we must stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Since all of us are to stand before the judgment seat of Christ then we have no right to judge another according to verse 10: “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?” Since we are all equal before the judgment seat of Christ, no one has any judgment rights.

**WE ARE ALL TO BOW BEFORE CHRIST’S SUPREMACY.** Here is the final truth. The Apostle Paul begins by quoting from the prophecy of Isaiah: “As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” Now see how near the Apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 45:22, 23: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”

The Apostle Paul makes a slight adaptation and says “every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God.” Now he is putting this in the mouth of the Lord, of course. It wasn’t that they were going to bow to the Apostle Paul, no. No one is excluded here, every knee and every tongue. That is the final truth. We are all to bow before Christ’s supremacy.

Paul repeated this great truth when he wrote to the Philippians: “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Do you understand? We are all to bow before Christ’s supremacy.

This is a personal matter as expressed in the final verse of this text: “So than everyone of us shall give an account of himself to God.” You are not to give account for someone else. I will not give an account for you and you will not give an account for me This is a personal matter.

Therefore, no one can avoid bowing to Christ’s supremacy. The day will come, my friend, when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess.

Personal accountability is both a responsibility and a relief. It is a responsibility for no one can answer for us. It is a relief for we need not answer for someone else.

I urge you, therefore, take seriously these truths and realize we are all to live under Christ’s lordship; we are all to stand before Christ’s judgment seat; we are all to bow before Christ’s supremacy. I urge you to make your total commitment now.