

**For the week of April 22-28, 2018**

**Based on Pastor Tucker's message from April 21-22**

### **Romans: 14 – Seek The Peaceable Kingdom**

**Best Way to Prepare for Your Group?** Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

#### **[Format for the Evening]**

##### **WELCOME:**

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

##### **KEY PASSAGE:**

*“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” –Romans 14:17-19*

##### **THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:**

The early church attracted both Jews and Gentiles—people from religious backgrounds and those who were accustomed to the worship of many gods. Jews revered their Holy Sabbath and kept strict dietary rules. Gentiles worshipped when and if they wanted to and devoured food dedicated to idols. Is it any wonder then, that these brethren easily fell prey to conflict? This chapter addresses a basic argument about what is and isn't acceptable Christian behavior. It is a debate that continues to this day. To help settle the matter, Paul cautions his readers, then and now, not to “quarrel over disputable things.”

##### **TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:**

1. What are some disputable things that continue to divide God's Church today?
2. How has the church traditionally addressed these areas of conflict?
3. How do you believe these conflicts should be addressed according to the Bible?

4. Are there hazards in improperly addressing these types of conflict? If so, what are they and how can they be avoided?

### **THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:**

Paul sets clear-cut standards for the Kingdom of God on Earth. According to him, representing Jesus to a dark and needy world has little to do with eating and drinking. Instead of emphasizing these disputable issues, we should focus on what is really important—serving others in the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Holy Spirit.

### **TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:**

1. In your experience, are people often drawn to religious rules and regulations? If so, why do you think this occurs?
2. Is it easy, or even possible, for people to achieve God's righteousness, peace and joy on their own? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. How do we gain God's righteousness, peace, and joy?
4. How can we spread His righteousness, peace, and joy in practical ways to others?

### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

We can all learn so much from one another's insights. Spend a few minutes sharing any points you remember from this sermon.

1. Did anything particularly resonate with you?
2. Have you had an opportunity to apply the message? If so, how?

### **TAKE TIME TO PRAY:**

Please pray that the Holy Spirit would give believers great wisdom in knowing what elements of their Christian life (if any) include disputable things. Pray that we would all seek to spread God's righteousness, peace and joy throughout our daily interactions with others. Pray that however we choose to serve God and His people, it would be accomplished in the power, joy and peace of the Holy Spirit. Ask that we will all be quick to note when we are succumbing to the things of the flesh and would take time to ask God's Spirit to intervene on our behalf. *For it is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing.*" John 6:63.

### **TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:**

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

**Note:** Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at [tucker@calvaryboise.com](mailto:tucker@calvaryboise.com) with your insight.

## Weekly Prayer Requests

*“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” –Matthew 7:1-3*

One of the marks of a certain type of bad man is that he cannot give up a thing himself without wanting every one else to give it up. That is not the Christian way. An individual Christian may see fit to give up all sorts of things for special reasons—marriage, or meat, or beer, or the cinema; but the moment he starts saying the things are bad in themselves, or looking down his nose at other people who do use them, he has taken the wrong turning. – C.S. Lewis

## Our Core Group:

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## Our International Missions

- **For our Calvary Global Missions Team:** Please pray for all the logistics involved with Calvary Boise’s upcoming European mission trip—travel, lodging, food, etc. as well as the discipleship process leading up to it. Pray for lasting fruit in the mission fields we’ll serve and in our church body here.
- **For Awake Vancouver:** Pray that God would help Marlon and Becca and their church reach the Sikhs in our community. Vancouver, and especially the Browns’ neighborhood is very diverse. East Indian Sikhs comprise a major peoples-group. Recently, thousands of them celebrated Vaisakhi—an important day on the Sikh calendar. Their deeply religious culture is all about complete devotion to God. My heart breaks for these people. I think that because of their different look and unique culture, they have been largely neglected and unreached. Pray that God would help us connect with them, and bring them the true gospel.
- **Becca’s Surgery:** Becca will be returning to Oregon for surgery on April 30. Pray for the surgery to be effective and the recovery swift. Pray for travel blessings and that the children will be strong and peaceful while their parents are away. Pray too that all financial burdens are lifted.

## Our Local Ministry: Calvary Christian School

- Pray for enrollment: Pray that God would fill these seats with whomever He has purposed to be here and that He would provide financially or give creative ways for parents to make that happen.
- Ask that His wisdom be liberally poured out on Mindy Tiber, Lacey Zachman, and Julie Cacka in their leadership roles. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help them in all decision-making—big and small, and especially in staffing decisions
- Ask God to bring financial resources to bless the school and to provide scholarships for those who cannot otherwise afford to be here.

- Pray for students to grow in His love and unity and especially the ability to be quick to forgive.
- Ask God to help parents to be able to see with circumstances with His eyes.
- Please pray for two students going through hard custody issues. Ask for God's protection on their hearts and minds.