

The *Bēma* (Romans 14:9-26)

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December 2, 2021

THE *BĒMA* AND THE STRONG AND THE WEAK (14:9-23)

⁹In fact, to this end Christ both died as well as rose and lived so that He might exercise lordship over both *the* dead and *the* living.

¹⁰But as for you, why do you judge your brother? Or you too, why do you scorn your brother? For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat [*Bēma*] of Christ.

¹¹For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us shall render an accounting about himself to God.

¹³Therefore, let us no longer judge one another, but decide [judge] this instead: that we not create an impediment or a snare for *our* brother.

¹⁴I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; except that to a person who considers something to be unclean, to that person *it is* unclean.

¹⁵Now if because of your food your brother is grieved, you are no longer walking in love. By your food, do not ruin that person for whom Christ died.

¹⁶So do not let your good *activity* be defamed.

¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ Indeed, the person who serves Christ in these things *is* pleasing to God and approved by men.

¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things *that produce* peace and the things *that produce* edification for each other.

²⁰ Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All *foods* indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who causes an impediment *for someone* by eating *it*.

²¹ *It is* good not to eat meat nor to drink wine nor *to do anything* by which your brother runs into an impediment or is ensnared or made weak.

²² Do you have faith? Have *it* by yourself before God. Blessed *is* the person who does not condemn himself *for the thing* which he treats as acceptable.

²³ But the person who is doubtful is condemned if he eats, because *he does* not *do so* by faith. And whatever *is* not by faith is sin.

A BENEDICTION (14:24-26)

²⁴ Now to the One who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel and the message of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the revelation of the mystery *which was* kept silent through *past* eternal times,

²⁵ but now has been manifested, and has been made known to all the Gentiles through prophetic Scriptures made known to all the Gentiles in accordance with the command of the eternal God, to produce the obedience of faith—

²⁶ to God, *who alone is* wise, *be* glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONCLUSION