Mat #89

The do’s and don’ts of Christianity

First let me remind people about the June 29th & 30th Bible Conference in Sutter Creek Ca.

Go to PRB Ministry.org look at the video and info there…I also have a great PC video there that is very informative about the CIA which every American should look at.

I’ll be switching out certain videos from this page on You Tube over to my PRB Ministry site so keep checking in on that site from time to time.

Turn to Leviticus chapter 11 with me.

Let me say thank you to Allyson for the donation on my Gofund me page.

You know it’s amazing that if just 40 or 50 people who decide to support a small online ministry like this could make all the difference in the world whether a pastor like myself can survive financially each month if they make a commitment of just 50 or 60 dollars every month.

Unfortunately I’m not at place of being able to have a regular pay check from my ministry… but my hopes and prayers are that going into next year I can be at a place where my main focus can be on studying and teaching instead of only having part time hours to do that.

Please keep that in prayer and also share these videos on social media to help get the messages out there.

Let me also give a shout out and thank you to Gladys in Arizona for the wonderful gift she just sent me.

Today I want to take a look at what many Christians struggle to understand and it springs from my last lesson in the book of Matthew.

/Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus **that nothing is unclean in itself**; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.\

Many Christians struggle with what diets are considered godly and if a Bel can have a few drinks of alcohol or not.

In Romans chapter 14 the Apostle Paul is actually addressing the fact that what your personal diet consist of is between you & God. It is your own convictions because ultimately we know what causes us to sin…what causes us to fall into addiction or gluttony.

/Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, **have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.\

Now look at Leviticus chapter 11;

Lev 11:1 The LORD spoke again to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,

/Lev 11:2 “**Speak to the sons of Israel**, saying, ‘These are the creatures which you may eat from all the animals that are on the earth.\

First and foremost we are dealing with the OT nation of Israel and the Mosaic law.

The Mosaic Law was fulfilled in the humanity of Jesus Christ this is a different dispensation.

Lev 11:3 ‘Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs, *and* chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat.

Lev 11:4 ‘Nevertheless, you are not to eat of these, among those which chew the cud, or among those which divide the hoof: the camel, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you.

Lev 11:5 ‘Likewise, the shaphan (most likely a badger or weasel), for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you;

CUD was anything in the brush like leaves, grass… berries and shrubbery.

Lev 11:6 the rabbit also, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you;

Lev 11:7 and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean to you.

Lev 11:8 ‘You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

/Lev 11:9 ‘These you may eat, whatever is in the water: **all that have fins and scales**, those in the water, in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat.\

Lev 11:10 ‘But whatever is in the seas and in the rivers that does not have fins and scales among all the teeming life of the water, and among all the living creatures that are in the water, they are detestable things to you,

What this is telling us is don’t eat any shell fish at all. Shrimp, scallops, lobster clams…you get the picture right?

Lev 11:11 and they shall be abhorrent to you; you may not eat of their flesh, and their carcasses you shall detest.

Lev 11:12 ‘Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is abhorrent to you.

Now jump to the book of Deuteronomy chapter 14 with me and we will look at the same commands.

/The Bel must understand the dispensation they live in before they attempt to follow rules and regulations they do not fully understand. The CA Bel needs to follow CA doctrines (Matt-Rev).\

What does Paul, Peter, John and Luke focus on… make sure you understand those doctrinal principles as far as what you live in day in and day out.

The OT doctrines are all applicable to our lives but not all commands and OT doctrines fit into the CA Bels life.

There are life lessons wrapped up in every book from Gen - Rev important doctrines and instructions for all Bels.

Just understand that many rituals and commands from the OT were designed for the early Jewish nation.

Deu 14:1 “You are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead.

Deu 14:2 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deu 14:3 “You shall not eat any detestable thing.

/Deu 14:4 “These are the animals which you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

Deu 14:5 the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep.\

Look at the list….many animals on that list are on the dinner table of Christians across the globe…so are they all horrible sinners????

Deu 14:6 “Any animal that divides the hoof and has the hoof split in two *and* chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat.

/Keep in mind, this list of animals & shellfish have a few health related issues connected to them concerning adding them to your diet. This was also the ancient times when preparing and storage of such creatures was very limited.\

Remember all they relied upon for preserving food for a few days was salt… that was it.

And many of the animals on the list are very difficult to digest and could be unhealthy for the human digestive system.

There is a list of certain types of birds that God told OT Bels not to eat as well.

But what about deer…rabbit…shellfish…buffalo and goats & pigs there are many on that list that human beings can eat if they are prepared the right way.

Look into the NT and see if this type of list is emphasized for the CA Bel….if not then it is between you & God what you add or subtract from your daily diet.

You are not an OT Jew who is commanded to follow the Torah you are a NT…new covenant CA Bel who lives in God’s grace and the instructions of the Apostles that were set in stone by TLJC.

/Gen 9:3 **Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you**. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

This was the command for the Dispensation of Innocence’s.\

The original man and woman and those children they brought forth had access to anything to eat.

In fact as you study the Bels like Noah Abraham, Isaac and Jacob you never get a sense that God was forbidding certain foods and pointing the Bel toward a strict diet.

Once you get to the Mosaic Law then we begin with many rules and regulations.

Different dispensations focus on certain standards that may not apply to another dispensation.

The CA Bel should focus on what the Apostles taught…certainly Paul being the courier of Church Age Mystery doctrine.

/Col 2:16-17 Therefore **let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink,** or with regard to a **festival or a new moon or a Sabbath**. These are a shadow of the things to come, but **the substance belongs to Christ**.\

What about alcohol?

/Pro 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is **intoxicated** by it is not wise.

Isa 5:22 Woe to those **who are heroes** in drinking wine and **valiant men** in mixing strong drink,\

You see… if you do not interpret the Bible properly you will have the Bible contradicting itself…it’s important to understand the historical context and the dispensation as well who it is written for and the original language.

Both of those scriptures are speaking to drinking in excess…drunkenness and those who use too much alcohol.

/Lev 10:9 “**Do not drink wine or strong drink**, neither you nor your sons with you, **when you come into the tent** of meeting, so that you will not die—it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations—\

This is part of the Mosaic Law and the scripture is addressed to Levitical priests.

What about the NT?

/Eph 5:18 And **do not get drunk** with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,\

This is from the prison epistle of the Apostle Paul and is actually a general letter sent out to several churches.

General information about the spiritual life is covered and as you see being drunk is not part of the spiritual life. Having a few glasses of wine is not drunkenness.

Look what Paul tells his young pastor in training…

/1Tim 5:23 No longer drink water *exclusively,* **but use a little wine** for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.\

Apostle Paul is either contradicting himself ….or having a few glasses of wine or an alcoholic drink as long as you do not get drunk… so it is not an issue for the Christian with no problems in this area.

/1Tim 3:8 Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or **addicted to much wine** or fond of sordid gain,\

Notice the standard is not that they can’t have a drink it is addiction and drunkenness that becomes the issue.

What does Jesus say about Himself…

/Matt 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ 19 “The Son of Man **came eating and drinking,** and they say, ‘Behold, **a gluttonous man and a drunkard**, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”\

Jesus enjoyed a good meal and fine glass of wine and this really upset the legalistic Jews. Notice how arrogance immediately assumes the worse instead of giving the benefit of the doubt.

 We already saw the first healing in the book of Matthew what about The Lord’s first miracle…the famous wedding scene where everyone was celebrating at the wedding feast.

/Jhn 2:2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 **When the wine ran out**, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.”\

We know the outcome….TLJC performs the miracle of water into wine, but notice Jesus was already reclining at the wedding eating and drinking.

I’m going to close this out with a few simple principles ;

/Jesus never got drunk nor was He a glutton with His diet. Jesus did enjoy good food and a glass of wine as He socialized and evangelized.\

Understand that someone with a weakness for alcohol and drugs would be sinning if they had a few drinks because it would probably lead to more.

Much like a person with an overeating disorder would have to know when to push away from the table.

/Each Bel must know his/her limits and never play games with their freedom that comes from the Grace of God. Anything or anyone who can control, manipulate or lead you toward sin is nothing more than the OSN taking over your life.\

Don’t think you can be strong in your flesh or that you can pray your way out of it ….if it starts to control you…by then it’s too late!

/Jam 4:17 Therefore, **to one who knows *the* right thing to do** and does not do it, to him **it is sin.**

1Pet 2:16 *Act* as free men, and **do not use your freedom as a covering for evil**, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.\

Your spiritual walk is not my spiritual walk nor is your weak areas and OSN exactly like mine…we all walk our own personal walk with God.

He is never fooled nor is He willing to compromise with your OSN.