

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 14:16, **“Let not your good be evil spoken of:...”**

Context (God’s intended meaning) of any scripture is highly important. In this verse it is no different. We find the Apostle Paul speaking the following in I Corinthians 10:30, **“For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that which I give thanks?”** Paul is referring to the blessings of the gospel of which he was made a partaker of and yet found himself being evil spoken of because he adhered to its teachings. He goes further and proclaims the gospel worthy of our being thankful for it. If someone speaks evil of your service to God, are you willing to endure it for Jesus’ sake? Are you ready to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ? Or, are you willing to deny Him in order to avoid public ridicule? In the evil days we are living in, some are facing these hard questions concerning morality, faithfulness, discipline, and other issues which question our willingness to stand for the truths of God. In addition, consider how we react when someone questions our beliefs. If our reactions are not with longsuffering and gentleness, then our good can easily be evil spoken of and bring reproach to the cause of Christ.

In Romans 14, Paul is calling to mind the issue of eating those meats which many still believed to be unclean. We know that the Lord had already taught Peter in Acts 10:15 that **“what God hath cleansed, that call not thou common”** (spiritually meaning the Gentiles). The religious leaders of the Jewish nation still held to certain meats as being unclean and by eating those meats they could be accused of being unclean. Reminds me of Paul saying, **“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend”** (I Corinthians 8:13). May God grant us the wisdom to know how to **“do good unto all men”** (Galatians 6:10) so there is no question or mistaking that our purposes are good and are indeed, godly. **Think about it!**