

January 7, 2024

“The Renewal of a Believer’s Mind” Romans 12:2

Prel Rmks

LOGW

This morning before we observe the LS, I want to follow up and go a little deeper into what we looked at in the message last week

Walking in Wisdom

Redeem the Time – Make the most of the opportunity given to us by God

Understand what the will of the Lord is

Our text today tells us how we can understand what the will of the Lord is -

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service.

(2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

INTRO

When you come to chapter 12 ... 1 to 11 / 12 to 16

(1)I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service.

I **beseech** you therefore, brethren,

by the **mercies** of God,

Romans 11:30-32 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained **mercy** through their disobedience, (31) even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the **mercy** shown you they also may obtain **mercy**. (32) For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have **mercy** on all.

1-11: Doctrine of salvation

that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,

offer ourselves to God {Isaiah in Isaiah 6 – “Here am I ...”

“I’ll die for Jesus” ... but will you live for Him?

holy, **set apart for Him**

acceptable to God, **well-pleasing**

2 Corinthians 5:9 [Paul]: Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

which is your reasonable service.

in light of the mercies of God – IT IS REASONABLE!

When we consider all that God has done for us, it is reasonable that our entire lives are lived as an act of worship to God!

Two Questions that we want to answer in the message today:

What does the Bible mean by renewing our minds?

How can we have our minds renewed?

We’ll see that in our main text in v. 2

I. Stop Being Conformed to the World’s Way of Thinking 2a

(2) And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This is primarily speaking about being conformed to the world’s way of thinking.

STOP ...

conformed

fashioned like ~ cut out of the same pattern {sewing}

put in the same mold ~ strike the same pose

THINKING – THOUGHT LIFE

What is worldly thinking?

Ungodly

Psalms 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*; *God is* in none of his thoughts.

Temperal

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Carnal

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Anxious & Worried

Luke 12:29 "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind."

Prideful

Proverbs 21:24 A proud *and* haughty *man*—"Scoffer" *is* his name; He acts with arrogant pride.

Look at me! ~ Look at how I look! ~ Look at who I am!

Look at what I have! ~ Look at what I can do!

Look at where I can go! ~ Look at me!

Selfish

Galatians 5:19-20 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred ... selfish ambitions ...

Legalistic or Licentious

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

(15) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? **(16)** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." **(17)** Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." **(18)** "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(16) For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

(17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

TV ~ Music ~ Movies – Hollywood

Peer pressure – sports celebrities and other celebrities

This applies to adults as well as young people!

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good **habits morals.**"

Stop being conformed to the world's way of thinking!

II. Be Transformed 2b

(2) And do not be conformed to this world,

but be **transformed** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Transformed

Metamorphosized

Transfigured – like Christ ...

A radical change!

How?

by the **renewing renovation** { ... } of your mind,

Why is this so important?

John MacArthur: "If your whole affection and love is toward the world, you're not a believer. But [even] as believers, we can allow ourselves to be influenced by the world, even though we love Christ."

We need to replace the influence of the world's thinking, with the influence of God's way of thinking – which is found in His Word.

The will of God is found in the Word of God!

The vast majority of the will of God for our lives He has already revealed to us in His Word. Examples:

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Peter 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

John 6:40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Why is this so important?

Because we do not naturally gravitate to Godly wisdom and actions ... {filling up your car with gasoline}.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. (9) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 119:105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Renewal, renovation of our minds, doesn't just happen by our eyes going across the words on the pages of our Bibles. There must also be the illumination of those words by the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:16 ... But we have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

John 16:13-14 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **(14)** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Implications / Applications

1. **For the believer, the Word of God is the antidote to worldly thinking.**

Ungodly – Godly
 Temporal – Eternal
 Carnal – Spiritual
 Anxious & Worried – Peace
 Prideful & Selfish – Humble
 Legalistic or Licentious – Grace

2. **Saturating our hearts and minds with the Word of God and being filled with the Spirit of God must be the priority of our lives as believers.**

End of v. 2:

“... that you may **prove ...**” = **test, approve by testing**

WE say – “... good, **acceptable pleasing**, perfect will of God.”

3. **There are other factors in the renewing of our minds.**

Fellowship

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Hebrews 10:25 – gathering, encouraging, drawing strength

The Lord’s Supper ...