

Verse Analysis of Romans 12:1-2  
Example

OBSERVATIONS

**Step One: Context**

**Immediate Context:** 12:1-2 serve as a transition from chapters 9-11 to the rest of 12

**Near Context.** Chapters 9-11 concern the Righteousness of God revealed in His dealings with His chosen people of Israel - especially in His continued faithfulness to His promises to them. Chapter 12:3-8 describes the transformed life in being part of the Body of Christ and serving God in the church, and the rest of the chapter in living among others.

**Context in the book.** The Book of Romans prior to 12:1-2 describes God's mercy to sinners in providing a way of salvation by His grace through being justified in Christ by faith in Him. Chapters 9-11 illustrate this same truth in His dealings with the nation of Israel. The rest of the book following describe the practical results of having faith in Christ - a transformed life.

**Step Two: Observations in the text**

- \*Who - Paul writing to the saints in Rome
- \*What - Paul transitions from telling them what God has done for them to telling them how they ought to then live.
- \*When - Paul is writing about the middle of his ministry - approx. 56 AD during his third Missionary Journey
- \*Where - It is unknown exactly where Paul is writing from, but somewhere in Greece - Corinth, Philippi, etc.
- \*Why - Paul wants them to clearly understand the gospel of Jesus Christ and to live in its transforming power.
- \*How- Paul points out the logical conclusion that a life lived by faith in Jesus is also a life transformed into a living sacrifice for Christ.

Words to define:

\*present

NASB Concord. # 3936

3936. παριστημι **paristêmi**; from 3844 and 2476 ; *to place beside, to present, stand by, appear* :-- bystanders(5), come(1), commend(1), help(1), present(11), presented(4), presenting(1), prove(1), provide(1), put at My disposal(1), stand before(2), standing(2), standing beside(1), standing nearby(1), stands(1), stands here(1), stood(2), stood before(1), stood beside(2), took their stand(1).

\*sacrifice

NASB Concord. # 2378

2378. θυσια, ας **thusia**; from 2380 ; *a sacrifice* :-- sacrifice(14), sacrifices(14).

\*"Spiritual service of worship"

NASB Concord. # 2999

2999. λατρευια, ας **latreia**; from 3000 ; *service* :-- divine worship(2), service(2), service of worship(1).

\*acceptable

NASB Concord. # 2101

2101. ευαρεστος, ον **euarestos**; from 2095 and 700 ; *well-pleasing* :-- *acceptable(3), pleasing(2), well-pleasing(3), which is pleasing(1)*.

\*conformed

NASB Concord. # 4964

4964. συσχηματιζω **suschêmatizô**; from 4862 and 4976 ; to conform to :-- *conformed(2)*.

\*transformed

NASB Concord. # 3339

3339. μεταμορφωω **metamorphoô**; from 3326 and 3445 ; *to transform* :-- *transfigured(2), transformed(2)*.

\*renewing

NASB Concord. # 342

342. ανακαινωσις, εως **anakainôsis**; from 341 ; *renewal* :-- *renewing(2)*.

\*prove

NASB Concord. # 1381

1381 (1381a). δοκιμαζω **dokimazô**; from 1384 ; *to test, by impl. to approve* :-- *analyze(2), approve(3), approved(1), approves(1), examine(4), examines(1), prove(1), proving(1), see fit(1), test(2), tested(3), try(1), trying to learn(1)*.

\*good

NASB Concord. # 18

18. αγαθος, η, ον **agathos**; of unc. origin; *good* :-- *generous(m)(1), good(70), good man(2), good thing(5), good things(6), goodness(1), goods(2), kind(1), kindly(1), kindness(1), what is a good thing(1), what is good(7), which is good(4)*.

\*acceptable

NASB Concord. # 2101

2101. ευαρεστος, ον **euarestos**; from 2095 and 700 ; *well-pleasing* :-- *acceptable(3), pleasing(2), well-pleasing(3), which is pleasing(1)*.

\*perfect

NASB Concord. # 5046

5046. τελειος, α, ον **teleios**; from 5056 ; *having reached its end, i.e. complete, by ext. perfect* :-- *complete(2), mature(4), more perfect(1), perfect(12)*.

Phrases to understand

\*present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice

\*renewing of your mind

\*conformed to this world

*I urge you therefore* - What is the “therefore,” therefore?

Paul pleading based on what he had said in the previous passages

*brethren* - Paul identifying with those he was writing

*by the mercies of God*- looks back at all he said in previous 11 chapters about God’s mercy in saving sinners by His grace through justification by faith in Jesus. This is what the “therefore” earlier is referring back too.

*To present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice* - we are to live for Christ. Since we have already died with Him (ch. 6), then the life we live now is not our own, but is to be Christ living through us. A sacrifice dies when it is offered. We are to die to self and live for Him. The “holy” describes the manner of life we are to live - lambs without spot or blemish. Our best, not what is left over.

*Acceptable to God* -

*your spiritual service of worship* - see word study above - the only logical outcome in view of what God has done for us is to serve Him.

*And do not be conformed to this world* - this world system seeks to squeeze us into its own mold so that we act and think like everyone around us. We are to resist that pressure. This is a command.

*But be transformed* - word we get “metamorphosis” from. Complete reworking of what had been originally present into something brand new - like a caterpillar into a butterfly.

*By the renewing of your mind* - the means of transformation is the renewing of the mind - the mind is changed from its darkened state and filled with the light of His word. Every thought is to be taken captive to Christ. Our patterns of thinking as well as what we think about are changed.

*That you may prove what the will of God is* - our different way of thinking leads to a changed way of living - in conformity to God’s will. Our lives therefore demonstrate God’s will working in us.

*That which is good and acceptable and perfect* - descriptions of God’s will in our lives.

#### Other Observations

\*If I am to resist the pressure of the world to mold me into its image then my mind must be radically changed. What will radically change my mind?

\*It is only logical that I should serve the Lord - How can I serve Him to demonstrate His will?

\*A sacrifice dies when it is offered. I am to be a living sacrifice. I must die to myself and live for Him

\*I must living for God in a way that is acceptable to God. What is there in my life that may not be holy? What may not be acceptable to Him?

#### **Step Three** - Rewrite Verse in own words

*In view of all that God has done in providing salvation to you, you are to live your life in holiness completely for Him with nothing held back. This is the only logical response you can have in worship of Him.*

*Do not let the world pressure you into its mold, but have your mind completely changed into new patterns of thinking so that you may prove God’s will in your life by following His will instead of your own. His will is good and acceptable and perfect.*

#### **Step Four: Cross References**

Treasury SK - Roma 12:2

\* beseech.

# 15:30 1Co 1:10 2Co 5:20 6:1 10:1 Eph 4:1 1Th 4:1,10 5:12 Heb 13:22

\* by the.

# 2:4 9:23 11:30,31 Ps 116:12 Lu 7:47 2Co 4:1 5:14,15 Eph 2:4-10 Php 2:1-5 Tit 3:4-8 1Pe 2:10-12

\* that ye.

# 6:13,16,19 Ps 50:13,14 1Co 6:13-20 Php 1:20 Heb 10:22

\* a living.

# Ps 69:30,31 Ho 14:2 1Co 5:7,8 2Co 4:16 Php 2:17 Heb 10:20-22 Heb 13:15,16 1Pe 2:5

\* acceptable.

# 2 15:16 Ps 19:14 Isa 56:7 Jer 6:20 Eph 5:10 Php 4:18 1Ti 2:3 1Ti 5:4 1Pe 2:5,20

Treasury SK - Roma 12:3

\* be not. # Ex 23:2 Le 18:29,30 De 18:9-14 Joh 7:7 14:30 15:19 17:14 1Co 3:19 2Co 4:4 6:14-17  
Ga 1:4 Eph 2:2 4:17-20 Jas 1:27 4:4 1Pe 1:14,18 4:2 2Pe 1:4 2:20 1Jo 2:15-17 3:13 4:4,5 5:19  
Re 12:9 13:8

\* be ye. # 13:14 Ps 51:10 Eze 18:31 36:26 2Co 5:17 Eph 1:18 4:22-24 Col 1:21,22 3:10 Tit 3:5

\* prove. # 1 Ps 34:8 Eph 5:10,17 1Pe 2:3

\* good. # 1 7:12,14,22 Ps 19:7-11 119:47,48,72,97,103,128,174 Pr 3:1-4 Pr 3:13-18 Ga 5:22-23  
Eph 5:9 Col 4:12 1Th 4:3 2Ti 3:16,17

**Step Five** - Applications to work on.

Continued resistance to the world and transformation of my life through a mind renewed by the Holy Spirit through His word.

**Step Six** - Pivotal Idea

Be a living sacrifice who is not conformed to this world but is transformed by a renewed mind.

**Step Seven** - Theme

In view of the salvation God has provided in Christ we ought to live our lives completely for Him in holiness by resisting the pressure of the world to conform us into its image and instead be radically changed by a transformed mind that does God will.

**Step Eight** - chart the passage

12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship. (NASB)

παρακαλω Pr. Act. Ind. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgl

(I urge you)

ουν υμας αδελφοι

(therefore my brethren)

δια των οικτιρων του θεου

(by the mercies of God)

παραστησαι Aorist Inf

(to present)

τα σωματα υμων θυσιαν

(the bodies of you a sacrifice)

ζωσαν Πρεσ. Part. Acc. Sing. Fem

(living)

αγιαν Pres. Part. Acc. Sing. Masc

(holy)

τω θεω ευαρεστον

(to God acceptable)

την λογικην λατρειαν υμων

(the logical service of worship of you)

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

και μη συσχηματιζεσθε Pres. Inf. Middle

(And not to be conformed)

τω αιωνι τουτω

(to the world, this one)

αλλα μεταμορφουσθε Pres. Inf. Pass

(but transformed)

τη ανακαινωσει του νοος

(by the renewal of the mind)

εις το δοκιμαζειν υμας τι το θελημα του θεου

(in order to prove what the will of the God)

το αγαθον

(the good)

και ευαρεστον

(and acceptable)

και τελειον

(and perfect)

<u><i>My brothers</i></u> (Who is being addressed)	<u><i>I urge you</i></u> (Main verb)	<u><i>Therefore, by the mercies of God</i></u> (Reason for the urging)
<i>to present your bodies a sacrifice:</i> (infinitive)  <i>Living</i>   <i>Holy</i>   <i>Acceptable</i> <i>to God</i>  Description of sacrifice	<i>to not be conformed</i> (infinitive)	<i>to be transformed</i> (infinitive)
		<i>by the renewal of your mind</i> (Means of transformation)
<i>Your logical service of worship</i> (Reason for following this urging)		<i>in order to prove what the will of God is</i> (Reason for following this urging)  <i>Good</i>   <i>Acceptable</i>   <i>Perfect</i>  (description of God's will)