

Be Ye Transformed – Romans 12:2 3/21/21

Read Romans 12:-12 then back up to get context in 11:18, 25-36

. Consider the language of Rom 12:1-2. We are first reminded that this is possible because of God's enablement--"by the mercies of God". We are confronting this issue in the mind and are called to transform ourselves! I have mistakenly connected this thought in the past with the transformation God accomplishes in salvation because the word "transformed" in the Greek is where we get the word "metamorphosis". True, we are now a new creation. He has absolutely transformed us. But this is instead a sanctification verse considering the context. We are to, by God's power of course, transform ourselves. Interestingly, both verbs to be conformed and be transformed are in the middle voice which means "the subject both performs and receives the action expressed by the verb"! These things are happening by the influence of the Holy Ghost in our lives AND we're acting along with the Spirit. We consider renewing our mind and immediately think of things like prayer, study, and meditation on God's word. I would agree all of those things are relevant to this discussion. We have to see our battle is fought here. We're not wrestling against flesh and blood. But there is another passage with similar language that sheds further light on this warfare. There is a companion passage to our text, and I'd like these to be linked in our minds. The text is Eph 4:22-24. How to we not be conformed, renew, and transform? By putting off, renewing, and putting on! At the beginning of chapter 4: - we see we are well equipped by the Lord - v. 17 we must battle in our minds - v. 18-19 highlights their inability - v. 20 in contrast, we are not unable and blind to the truth - v. 21 we have personal interaction with Jesus, being taught by Him! Thus, because of what He has done in our lives, we play an active role in these verses that follow. Note that putting off and putting on are outwardly recognizable things. Renewing takes place in the heart, the mind. (Php 4:8) The inward must be correct in order for the outward to be. Otherwise, we'll be white-washed sepulchers! One thing to note, this instruction is about being spiritually minded, not physically. We are told not to worry about what we "put on" this body. (Luk 12:22) We are now like the prodigal after his return, clothed in the best attire! (Luke 15:22) Why would we settle for that which is inferior. We are clothed with power from on high! (Luk 24:49) We have put on Christ! (Gal 3:26-28) The rest of Eph 4 shows us practically how to perform the putting on and off. Note how practical and straightforward these things are! Nothing confusing. This instruction is simple! We are without excuse in this sanctifying process. Consider other passages: Rom 13:12-14 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **\*\*cast off\*\*** the works of darkness, and let us **\*\*put on\*\*** the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But **\*\*put on\*\*** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. 1Pe 2:1 Therefore, laying aside [**\*\*put off\*\***] all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, Be Ye Transformed – Rom 12:2 3/21/21 1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all

of you be subject one to another, and **\*\*be clothed\*\*** with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **\*\*lay aside\*\*** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Jam 1:21 Wherefore **\*\*lay apart\*\*** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 1Pe 2:1 Wherefore **\*\*laying aside\*\*** all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, Recall the language of Eph 6 regarding the armor of God. We are to put it on and never take it off because the battle is constant! Close with the following passage containing putting off, renewing, and putting on: Col 3:8-14 But now you yourselves are to **\*\*put off\*\*** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have **\*\*put off\*\*** the old man with his deeds, 10 and have **\*\*put on\*\*** the new man who is renewed in knowledge [sounds like renewing your mind] according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **\*\*put on\*\*** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things **\*\*put on\*\*** love, which is the bond of perfection.