

Lesson 25 – The Book of Romans

Romans 12:1 – *“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.”*

Now you have heard me in past teachings do as my beloved teacher would do and that is to ask yourself what the word therefore is there for. In other words, what does it have to do with what is being said?

It takes a great deal of self-restraint to look at this in its proper text. The word therefore has to do with the preceding verses. In other words, it is there to build upon what has already been said. It then takes you from what has been said, to a different thought but bases this thought on what has already been said.

I refer to this as “keeping the horse before the cart”.

In other words, the bible teaches us that we are to “love one another” As Christ has also first loved us. We do not get Christ to love us so we can love one another. He has already poured His life into us along with His love, and the more we understand that principle the easier it is to love one another.

Paul teaches us that our lives have been separated from this world. The reason this is important is to understand that we no longer have to act like the world. We do not cease acting like the world in order to receive something from Him, we have already received it from Him and the result is that we no longer have to act as the world acts.

We don't lie to one another, because lying has been removed from us. We no longer cheat one another, because cheating has been removed from who we are.

We do not act to receive; we act because we have already received. We do not give in order to receive something from Him, we give because His abundance has already been given to each of us.

So, if I say to you – therefore no longer be conformed to this world – why” because we have been called out of this world. We have a new home wherein righteous reign

Do we understand the difference here?

Had a friend of mine years ago that said “trying is lying” Think about that for a moment. Trying has its roots in me. It is as though if I need to receive something, I must do something in advance in order to receive it.

Beloved, that is the principle of the Old Testament. In order to please God, you must do, do, do. This side of the cross, Jesus has done everything necessary for our Godlike living. That is the reason He could cry from the cross “it is finished”. Nothing left to do on our part except believe that He has done it.

We are being asked by Paul in **Romans 12:1** to do something that is based upon His completed work. He has chosen the previous 11 chapters to bring us from “total separation from Him, without any hope of redemption” to “Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing...”

Every species of man has been described as in the same state – Lost and without hope. Jesus then steps on the scene and reverses that whole process.

Our most difficult response at this point is to *believe* it to be so.

The book of Romans can be divided into three categories. **Chapters 1-8** are doctrinal and deal with faith. **Chapters 1-3** deal with *sin* and its most complex diagnosis. **Chapters 4&5** deal with *salvation*, and **chapter 6-8** deal with *sanctification*.

Chapters 9-11 deal with *hope* - **9** – *Israels past* – **10** with *their present* and **11** with *their future*.

Chapters 12-16 deal with the issue of *Love*. In a practical sense.

In the first part of the book of Romans, we saw the *helmet* of salvation, and the *shield* of faith displayed. In this last section we will see that our *feet* are to be shod with the preparation of gospel of *peace*. We are to *stand* in the battle, we are to *walk* in our life, and we are to *run* the race. These are all outlined in **Ephesians chapter 6**.

Up until now in this book we have been learning about the *character* of the believer. We are now going to study about the *conduct* of the believer. Where we learned about the inner man (and what has happened inside of him/her) now we will look upon the outside of a man to determine the conversation of the believer. *Inside* was the *condition* of the believer, now on the *outside* – how the believer is to respond and act to the world.

Again, it is very important to keep the horse before the cart. You and I can only have the proper outside response to the world around us if we understand first what has happened inside of us. Do we get it?

What the Christian is – is *inner*, how he acts or does with the world is based upon his understanding of what has happened *inside* of him.

As we view the **chapters 12** and beyond, we can answer the question of “so what does what has happened to me have to do with my living today” .?

So, Paul is saying in verse 1 of Chapter 12 – I *beech* you (I beg you brethren) or (I am pleading with you) (that as a result of everything that has been presented beforehand)

The word *mercies* means to render *compassion on*. The word *present* means *to yield or let go of*.

We by presenting our bodies are reminded of that fact that we contain something. Inside of every believer he contains the person of the Living God, and that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The dwelling place if you will of God Himself.

Because of who we contain, our bodies are a total offering as a sacrifice to the living God within each of us and is therefore a “sacred service” or reasonable service to Him.

And then **verse 2 of Romans 12**, “*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.*”

The word conformed means to be *pressed into a mold*.

You have heard many teachers tell you that the “God of this world” Satan has many devices at His disposal all of which are worldly oriented and are designed to capture the minds of the believer.

Advertising exploits our worst basic desires – and are within His control. The whole of the entertainment industry (Not all movies, I plan on seeing “**Sounds of Freedom**” this week,) but the most of Hollywood is anti-godly.

The idea of being “**transformed**” has to do with “continually being, or keep on being transformed. I.e. It is not a one-time thing. We are to be continually being transformed. This is the Greek word for metamorphosis – which is something that a caterpillar goes through as it becomes a butterfly. A total change from inside to outside.

It is a complete change happening inside a believer in response to 2nd Corinthians 3:18 as we “*behold in a mirror, the glory of the Lord within us, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*”

We become what we most look at.

When Paul talks about the mind in **verse 2** he is speaking about the “control center” of our attitudes, thoughts, feelings and actions.

Again, **Ephesians 4:22-23** “*we put off, concerning our former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of our minds.*”

And that we “*put on the new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness.*” **Verse 24.**

The “Old man is referring to the Old Self – of which we have been separated. IT IS NO LONGER WHO YOU ARE. Again, we can do something because of what has been done to us. Horse before the cart – always.

The “spirit of your minds” – ie. Continually allow the spirit of your minds to constantly be renewed. Nor a one-time thing. – continually.

I am reminded of 2nd Peter 1: which states many of the attributes of God that should abound in the life of the believer, but if they are not there – **verse 9** “*for he who lacks these things in his/her life is short sided even to blindness and has forgotten he was cleansed from his old sins.*”

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