



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

TWO SIDES OF ROMANS

Romans 1 - 11	Romans 12 - 16
Doctrinal	Practical
Inner Person	Outward Person
Thought	Action
Christian Character	Christian Conduct
Position	Practice
Privilege	Responsibility
Being	Doing
Belief	Behavior
What a Christian Is	What a Christian Does
“The mercies of God”	“You present a living sacrifice”

AS A MAN THINKS... (PROV. 23:7)

The Bible reminds us **that thought precedes action!**



Thought generates *feelings* that influence *action*.

Christian theology (Doctrine, Biblical teaching) helps us think godly, so we can be godly, and then we will act godly.

CONFORMED OR TRANSFORMED

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Romans 12:1a

I **appeal** to you... (ESV)

I **exhort** you... (Berean Literal Bible)

I **beseech** you... (KJV)

I **beg** you... (CEV)

Paul is saying, "This is important! So I ask you with urgency that you..."



IMPORTANT

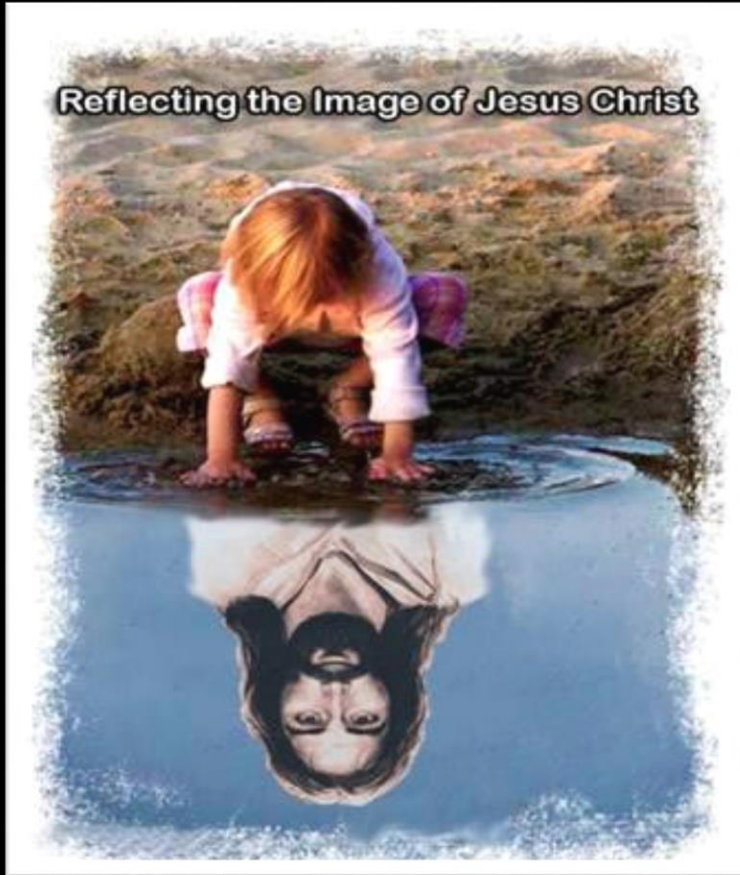
TWO FACTORS AND TWO OUTCOMES

Romans 12:1-2 identifies the two factors--**body** and **mind**--that will determine one of two outcomes—being **conformed** or **transformed**.

To say it another way:

*What you surrender your body and mind to
will determined if you will be
shaped by the world or molded by God!*

IN OTHER WORDS...



Romans 12:1-2 (CEV)

¹ Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to **offer your bodies to him** as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God. ² Don't be like the people of this world, but **let God change the way you think**. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

THE BODY IS IMPORTANT!

“...So I beg you to **offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice**, pure and pleasing.” (v.1b)

In Christianity, the body is important!

1 Corinthians 6:20

²⁰ for you were bought with a price. **So glorify God in your body.**

The body is so important that God raised Jesus' body from the dead and He will give us a glorified body for eternity!

OFFER YOUR BODY

God calls us to surrender our bodies to Him.

The Amplified Bible puts it:

**“Present your bodies,
dedicating all of yourselves,
set apart as a living sacrifice!”**

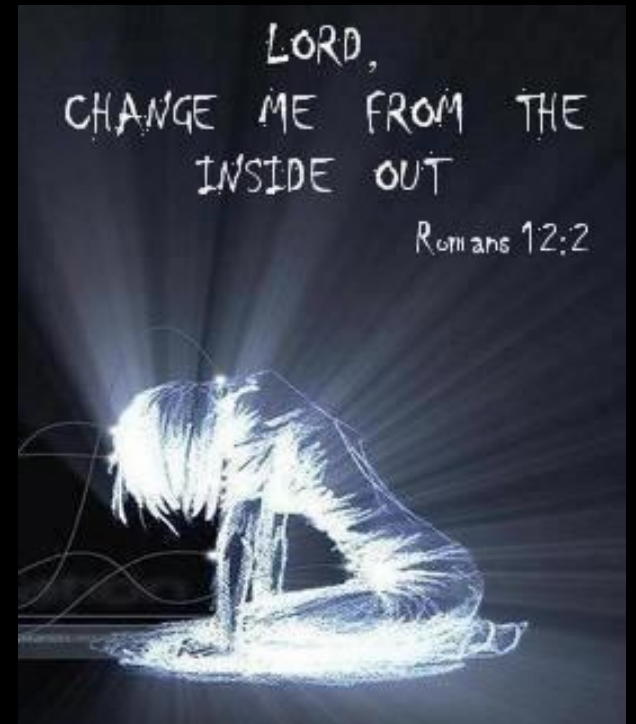
This is an offering only you can give to God.



PROGRESSIVELY CHANGED

Romans 12:2 (AMP)

² And do not be conformed to this world *any longer with its superficial values and customs*, but be transformed and progressively changed as you mature spiritually by the renewing of your mind focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes, so that you may prove for yourselves what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect in His plan and purpose for you.



NOT CONFORMED TO THE WORLD

- The world exerts a tremendous pressure to conform you to itself.
- God says, "Don't give in!"



THE MIND IS IMPORTANT

“Don’t be like the people of this world,
but **let God change**
the way you think...” (v.2a, CEV)



The structure of this sentence (Gk., present tense, passive voice, imperative mood) suggests that this is

- a continuous action,
- we are receiving the action, and
- it must be done!

THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND

- There is a spiritual battle for your mind going on all the time!
- God says, “put on the helmet of salvation!” (Eph. 6:17)



I'M SAVED!

In short, **Romans 12:1-2** tells us:

**If you trusted in and
surrendered to Jesus,
you are saved!**

Now THINK and ACT like it!

SAVED



THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN

Romans 11:25-26a (CEV)

²⁵ My friends, I don't want you Gentiles to be too proud of yourselves. So I will explain the mystery of what has happened to the people of Israel. Some of them have become stubborn, and they will stay like that **until the complete number of you Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ In this way **all of Israel will be saved...**



GOD WORKS IN
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
ROMANS 11:25-36

THE WISDOM OF GOD

Romans 11:28-35 (CEV)

²⁸ The people of Israel are treated as God's enemies, so that the good news can come to you Gentiles. But they are still the chosen ones, and God loves them because of their famous ancestors. ²⁹ **God doesn't take back the gifts he has given or forget about the people he has chosen...** ³³ Who can measure the wealth and wisdom and knowledge of God? Who can understand his decisions or explain what he does?



THINGS WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW...

God is infinitely wise and infinitely good. We are not, so sometimes we simply do not know and do not understand. But here is something we do know...



Romans 11:36 (CEV)

³⁶ Everything comes from the Lord. All things were made because of him and will return to him. **Praise the Lord forever! Amen.**