

A Dedicated and Transformed Life

Over the past year and a half we have covered Romans 1-11. In these chapters Paul has articulated the Gospel. All of mankind, both Jew and Gentile, is shut up in sin and deserving of God's wrath, but through Jesus Christ, God has made it possible that we can have a right standing before Him. By faith we can be justified; we can be forgiven. The Gospel is not, however, just a marvelous truth that brings salvation to us, it also makes demands on how we live. And so in the rest of Romans, Paul goes on to talk about how salvation should work out in a believer's life. Romans 12:1-2 is a sort of heading for all that follows. In these two verses Paul says that the Gospel calls for a dedicated and a transformed life.

Opening Question: What's an area of your life that you'd love to see God change?

Read Romans 12:1-2

1. How do you understand the significance of the word, "therefore" (v. 1)?
2. To what is Paul referring when he mentions "the mercies of God" (v. 1)?
3. What are the commands in this passage? What do they mean?
4. The "world" (v. 2) refers to the world system (i.e. this current evil age) that is fallen and opposed to God. In what ways does the world seek to form us (v. 2)?
5. Paul says that critical to being transformed is being renewed in our minds (v. 2). In other words, we need to develop the mind of Christ. How can we go about developing the mind of Christ?

6. How does Paul describe the will of God (v. 2)? And what does he say it takes to actually know that these things are true of God's will?

Brian said:

If you are a believer in Jesus, God wants all of you. And so the question that this verse begs to be asked is this, have you presented your life to God? Have you made this decisive commitment to offer your very self to God? . . . If you have not come to this place of yielding your life to God, why not? It may be that you've never heard this before. But others of you have heard this before and you still haven't responded to the Gospel in this way. Why not? What is holding you back?

7. Would you say that you've made this decisive commitment to fully yield your life to God or would you say you are working towards it? If you are struggling to yield fully to God, what do you sense is at the heart of your struggle?

8. Think back to your answer to the opening question (even if you didn't share it out loud). Being transformed in that area is a work of God's Spirit within you. But you have a part to play. What can you do to open yourself up to the transforming work of the Spirit in that area?