

## ***Transformed by Renewing Our Mind, Part 2 (Rom. 12:1-2)***

### **I. REVIEW: FIVE TRANSFORMING TRUTHS**

- A. Paul identified five truths in Roman 12:1-2 that equip us to receive God’s transforming grace: God views the sacrificial offering of our body to Him as *holy* and *pleasing* (v. 1) and commits to lead our life into His master plan or will in a way that is *good*, *pleasing*, and *perfect* (v. 2). These truths empower us to overcome despair, though Satan seeks to obscure them.
- <sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable [pleasing] to God, which is your reasonable service [logical response].  
<sup>2</sup>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 [pleasing] and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:1-2)***
- B. ***Will of God:*** The Lord has a master plan for our life destiny into which He is sure to lead us. Our lives will prove or give evidence that God’s will and leadership are good, acceptable, and perfect.
1. God’s first priority in His master plan, will, and destiny for our lives is that we be conformed to His image by growing in love, humility, and purity (Rom. 8:29).  
***<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose...<sup>29</sup>to be conformed to the image of His Son... (Rom. 8:28–29)***
  2. The stumbling block in God’s will for our life is that our sphere of impact is often very little in man’s eyes, yet our life destiny is very significant in God’s eyes (Mt. 25:21; Lk. 19:17).  
***<sup>17</sup>“Well done...because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” (Lk. 19:17)***  
***<sup>21</sup>“Well done...you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ (Mt. 25:21)***
- C. The Lord guarantees our success as we embrace His will because we are His workmanship and He prepared our *small* works, our body, personality, calling, family, etc. that we would grow in love.  
***<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)***  
***<sup>6</sup>...being confident...that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it... (Phil. 1:6)***
- D. ***By the mercies of God:*** Understanding God’s mercy *motivates us with gratitude* to give ourselves fully to Him and *gives us confidence in our weakness* that our flawed and weak offering is pleasing to Him. Seeing how extravagantly God gave His goodness to us motivates us to give ourselves fully to Him. Paul presented the truths of grace and mercy throughout Romans (especially in Romans 5).  
***<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)***  
***<sup>14</sup>For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Ps. 103:14)***  
***<sup>38</sup>He being full of compassion...<sup>39</sup>He remembered that they were but flesh. (Ps. 78:38-39)***

- E. **Present our body to God as a living sacrifice:** We give our body to the Lord in a wholehearted and costly way. David declared that he would only give to God a sacrifice that cost him. We give God that which is costly because it expresses our love. Though costly, it does not earn us His love. Our body here speaks of our whole person and of the mundaneness of our life walked out in our body.  
<sup>24</sup>“...I will not offer...offerings to the LORD...which cost me nothing.” (2 Sam. 24:24, NAS)  
<sup>3</sup>“...this poor widow has put in more than all; <sup>4</sup>for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” (Lk 21:3-4)
- F. **Truth #1 Holy:** Holy means “set apart” or sacred to God. God values our smallest acts of obedience. He sees, remembers, is moved by, and rewards all that we do, even giving someone a cup of water. The offering of our love and service is flawed and weak, but He evaluates us through His mercy.  
<sup>42</sup>Whoever gives...only a cup of cold water ...he shall by no means lose his reward. (Mt. 10:42)  
<sup>10</sup>God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints... (Heb. 6:10)
- G. **Truth #2 Acceptable (pleasing):** He is pleased with the flawed and weak offering of our love and service. There is joy and strength in believing that our offering is pleasing and holy to Him. Many live with despair, thinking that the offering of themselves is not holy and pleasing to the Lord. Paul is assuring us that presenting ourselves to God through the lens of His mercy is worth our effort.
- H. **Truth #3 Good:** He leads us in a way that is good for our life, so that we may be fruitful (Jn. 15:16). He works all things for our good. You have a very good future in God (I Cor. 2:9).
- I. **Truth #4 Pleasing:** God’s plan satisfies us and is according to how He uniquely designed each of us (Ps. 139:13). We can know the *sweetness* of His presence in doing His will even in difficult times.
- J. **Truth #5 Perfect:** Jesus’ leadership over our life is perfect and cannot be improved. He thought through all the details and is committed to intervene powerfully and skillfully to lead our life.

## II. TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MIND

- A. We are transformed by changing how we think. Transformation begins by *knowing* what God is like and who we are in Christ, which includes five truths related to presenting our life to Him as *holy* and *pleasing*, and that His master plan for our life is *good*, *pleasing*, and *perfect* (Rom. 12:1-2).  
<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)
- B. **Not conformed to the world:** First, we refuse to measure our life by the world’s values and accept God’s evaluation of our life. Second, we refuse to love and yield to lusts of the world (1 Jn. 2:15). The “theater” in which we express our love to Jesus is presenting ourselves to Him in context to resisting worldly temptations and enduring criticism for standing for the truth.
- C. **Transformed by renewing of our mind:** As our mind is renewed, our emotions will be transformed and our behavior will change. Our emotions and actions follow what we think and say. We declare that our offering to God is *holy* and *pleasing* and that His plan for us is *good*, *pleasing*, and *perfect*.