

ROM 236 - Title is - BE TRANSFORMED! PT 1- Rom 12:1-2

Do you remember that little 'survey' we did a while ago?

We asked everyone here to answer this simple question

"What would help you grow in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ right now?"

Well - as I began this msg

I reviewed again, the results of that survey

& a FULL 2/3 (67%) of the responses to that survey

would be ABSOLUTELY BE MET

by Fully 'applying' today's text - to our Lives

This is very HUGE text - & a very famous text

& if we will allow the Holy Spirit to sear this into our hearts

so much so - that we actually choose to apply it to our daily lives

Then a full 2/3 of the responses to our survey - would be met

Let's Pray

As we begin **ROM 12**
we come to the **Grand Division** of the book

For 35 weeks - we've dug into the Theological Truths of **ROM**

Now - Beginning **Right Here**
we get to start **LIVING** all that incredible **Theology** we've learned

Last week - we saw **Theology** become **Doxology** (Praise to God)
This week - we see **Theology** become - **PRACTICALITY** (practice)

It's time **to put** it all those great **Truths** to **Work**
It's time to turn the **TALK** - into the **WALK**

& the first TWO Vs's of the ***"How to Walk"*** section of Romans

Are some of ***The Most Powerful*** vs's in the Bible
to turn a **TALKING** Christian - into a **WALKING** Christian

So we're going to be careful - & take them very, very carefully

Let's start - w/ just the beginning - of Rom 12:1

Rom 12:1 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, . . .

In the NLT - Rom 12:1 says

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you . . .

& in the NKJ - Rom 12:1 says

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, . . .

I **APPEAL** to you
I **PLEAD** with you
I **BESEECH** you - - *By the Mercies of God !!*

Paul starts these vs's (& this section)
with an **intense, passionate** plea

This **level of intensity** in Paul's appeal
is found 3 other times in Paul's letters

& **what's amazing** to me is - **ALL THREE** of these other texts
*where Paul **intensely pleads** with the church*

Are (all 3) about **Maintaining Unity & Humility** in the church

1Cor 1:10 - ESV

*10 I **appeal** to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

In 2Cor 10:1 we read

*1 I, Paul, myself **entreat you**, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ . . .*

& then **he goes on** to **Defend** the church
from the **Division** being sown by the False Prophets

Eph 4:1-3 Paul says - ESV

*1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you** to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

In **ALL 3** of these texts

I believe Paul is **pleading** so intensely

because he's speaking of "**spiritual life & death**" matters
& so he's speaking with as much intensity as he can

& Guys - that is **how I spoke** to you **last week**

in our "**pre-message**" sermonette
about **Forgiveness** & **Unity** in the church

Because these matters are truly on the level
of "**spiritual life & death**"

& so we must **take them** very, very **seriously**

AND - that is the exact **same intensity**
the **Holy Spirit** starts today's text (& *this section*) with

Again Rom 12:1 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, . . .

After the "**Appeal**" - comes the important word "**Therefore**"
what's it there for ?

The "**therefore**" refers to all of the previous **11 Ch's**
of incredible **theological truth**

"**Therefore**" - because of the **incredible truths**
we've been studying for **35 messages**

"**Therefore**" - the Over-riding, All Encompassing response to all we've learned

is for us to **present our bodies as a living sacrifice** to the Lord

After 11 Ch's of Rom's - we know we CAN'T;

Make ourselves "**Right**" before God

We know we **can't TRY HARDER**

& we **can't** even overcome the **FLESH** on our own

& so - this "***How to Live***" section of Romans starts with the only "**Reasonable**" thing we **CAN** do

Present ourselves as a Living Sacrifice to God

the word "**present**" here - is the word used for the presentation of the **O.T. Sacrifice**

& the word "**bodies**" here means - Your **ENTIRE BEING**
Every part of your life

& **finally** – the word "**sacrifice**" refers to something that is **totally** consumed - as Worship to God

So – this is "***a presentation of everything we are to be completely consumed by God***"

It means the **Complete Surrender** - of every area of our lives to be **CONSUMED** by God - for His **Purpose**, & for His **Glory**

Just think about the **Picture** the word Sacrifice gives you

Something **DYING**

Something being **GIVEN** as Worship

Something being **CONSUMED** for God's use & God's Glory

& so - the "***How to Live***" half of Romans starts by saying

The only **reasonable thing** we can do

(after everything we've learned so far)

is to **present** the *Entirety of our Being*

to be Fully **CONSUMED** for God's **USE** - & God's **GLORY**

& so the **Holy Spirit** starts this section

FORCEFULLY - with Intensity

because there really **is NO OTHER** adequate **response**

to all that we've learned in the previous **11 Ch's**

Again - **Rom 12:1 says - ESV**

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, . . .

We've **certainly learned** in Rom's - over & over again

that we are **MADE** "*holy & acceptable*" to God **IN** Christ

So -this is **not implying**

we can make ourselves "*holy & acceptable*" to God

but it is actually a reference
to the OT sacrifices - that were given correctly to God

When the Sacrifice was given fully - & correctly - to God
it BECAME holy & acceptable (*or pleasing*) in God's sight

So the Holy Spirit is saying:

WHEN we give the Entirety of our being
to be Fully CONSUMED for God's USE - & God's GLORY

THEN - we will BECOME - a "living sacrifice"
that is Holy & Acceptable to God

& that is really Good News - Isn't it ?

that all we have to do - is SURRENDER our lives
completely to God

& our lives will Become
a HOLY & PLEASING offering to God - - *Man, that is great !*

So - this is NOT a "Requirement to be ATTAINED"

It is a Miracle that occurs
when our lives are Surrendered completely to God

& finally - the end of Rom 12:1 - really wraps this up → →

Rom 12:1 - ESV

1 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.

NKJ says "reasonable service" - it's the **same words**,
but "spiritual worship" is more accurate in the context

Why - is **offering God** our entire lives (a Living Sacrifice)
best translated as our **Spiritual Worship ??**

Watch this - cause it's very cool

If you look in Harpers Bible Dictionary
under "**Sacrifice**" - it simply says - **SEE WORSHIP**

& everything that **Harpers Bible Dictionary** has to say
about **SACRIFICE** to God

Is all **under** the heading of **WORSHIP**

Because **since The FALL** of man - **ALL Worship** of God
has involved some form of **Sacrifice**

Now (unfortunately, as I say often)
Our Culture has **managed** to **switch** that around

& **there** are some today who **think** that Worshipping God
means that **HE** gives **US** something - *(like whatever we want)*

The **only Problem** with that - is it's just **NOT Biblical**

Thruout the OT - **ALL WORSHIP** of God
involves some form of **Sacrifice**

There are **literally MILLIONS** of sacrifices
referred to in the O.T. - ***as acts of Worship***

& **maybe** you'd so - ***Oh that's terrible***
I'm sure glad all those sacrifices have stopped

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE GLAD ??

Because here's what's **happens** in the N.T.

Jesus Elevates **EVERYTHING** in our spiritual lives
far **beyond** the sacrifice of an **animal**

NOW!! - - the sacrifice considered **Holy & Acceptable to God**
is **Every** aspect - **OF YOUR LIFE**

Ooohhh - **NOW** some of you might be saying . . .

"Oh . . . OK . . . could I go back to the animal sacrifice instead ?"

But you see - all those **animal sacrifices**
were a **PICTURE** - A **TYPE**

& now **we have** Jesus Christ
who was sacrificed **ONCE** - **FOR ALL**

& Rom 6:10-11 says - ESV → →

Rom 6:10-11 - ESV

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the "type" (picture) of all those O.T. sacrifices when He died to sin, Once for All

But now (v.11 says) We are called to **LIVE**
as if we are actually **DEAD** to sin - & **ALIVE** to God in Christ

& Guys - **THAT** - is being **a Living Sacrifice**

& it is the **elevation** of the O.T. "**Surrender**" of an **animal**
to the N.T. "**Surrender**" of your **life**

& **THAT** is *really good news*

Because the **OT Surrender** of an Animal
could **never** give you **NEW & ABUNDANT LIFE** in Christ

But that is **EXACTLY** what the **Surrender** of your **life** gets you today
it get's you **NEW & ABUNDANT LIFE** in Christ

Man, **that's good** - isn't it ?

& this **LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD**
of **EVERY** area of our lives

Means **now** - everything we do - **can become** an act of **worship**

How we sacrifice for our spouse
How we sacrifice for our family
How we sacrifice at work
How we sacrifice in church family

These are ALL now areas of being a LIVING SACRIFICE
which is ***Our Spiritual Worship*** to God

AND - how we give Financially
is ALSO part of this ***Spiritual Worship***

Giving to the Lord is an *Absolute Unavoidable part*
of being a Living Sacrifice

& a Critical part of our "*Spiritual Worship*"

Even in our "Singing Worship" together
which we can be mistaken as our only "WORSHIP" time

Even in our singing - we need to SACRIFICE
our own thoughts - & wants - & plans

& just Worship Jesus - for Who He IS - period
with no other distractions - & no "thought wanderings"

In other words - we need to sacrifice our "self focus"
while we're Worshipping God

& that makes us - a Living Sacrifice

So - in Vs.1 the Holy Spirit appeals intensely to us
by the Mercies of God

To present every area of our lives - as a Living Sacrifice

which means Surrendering every area of our lives
for God's use - & God's glory

Which is Our SPIRITUAL WORSHIP to God - AMEN ?

& now we're ready - to at least start - Vs.2

Rom 12:2 - ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, . . .

A number of translations begin this Vs w/ "AND"
because it's a continuation from V.1

& so - continuing - the Holy Spirit says
"Do not be conformed to this world"

As a Christian, if you are conforming to this world

if you're fulfilling the desires of the flesh,
chasing after the things of the world
& focused on servicing yourself

Then the chances of you
being a Living Sacrifice to God - ARE ZERO

Guys - **we've got to be honest !!**

Being a Christian doesn't mean - **WHICH CHURCH YOU ATTEND**

Being a Christian means - **JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR LORD !**

& if you are being **conformed** to this world
chasing after everything this world tells you to chase
consumed by the things of this world

THEN . . . this WORLD is your **LORD**

We've **got to get honest** - with **Ourselves** - & with the **Lord**

1Jn 2:15 - ESV

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

That does **NOT** mean you can't "**operate**" in the world
you **don't** have to go be a **Monk on a Mountain**

This is about - - - **WHO DO YOU SERVE ??**

Are you really **servicing** the things of this world ?

& are you **willing to sacrifice** whatever it takes
to get the things of this world?

If so - **I urge you** today - **CHANGE MASTERS !**

The **MASTER** of this World - -
The Bible calls him - the **PRINCE** of this World

His name is **Lucifer**
& **his plan** for you - is **Eternal Destruction**

& **getting you** to conform to this world
is the **BROAD NET** he uses - to **drag you** into that destruction

But God cries out to you - in this Vs.
DO NOT BE CONFORMED to this World
But - - BE TRANSFORMED !!

Right now - Each one of us is either being
CONFORMED to this World - or being
TRANSFORMED by God !

& so - I need you to **really focus** right now
cause I'm **going to ask you** a very important QUESTION

Why don't we all just Bow our heads right now

I'm going to ask you **ONE Question**
& I'm going to **beg you** to be **honest** with God

Here's the Question;

Right Now in your Life - Are you being **CONFORMED** to the **WORLD**
or are you being **TRANSFORMED** by God

I'm not asking you if your **PERFECT**
I'm asking you WHAT **DIRECTION** are you moving in

Are you caught up in the **BROAD NET** of the **WORLD**
moving toward **Destruction** - - **or**

Are you being **TRANSFORMED** each day by **GOD**
moving toward **New & Abundant Life**

I just want to **give you a minute**
to **confess** to God right now in your heart

Which **SIDE** you're on - are you being **CONFORMED** to this World
or are you being **TRANSFORMED** by God

***Dear God, Help us to be honest with you
not just today - but every day - in Jesus Name, AMEN***

Now - - **maybe** you **struggled a bit** with that prayer

Maybe you were thinking - Well, I'm doing my best,
I'm trying my best - I'm just not perfect yet

OK - **Let's talk** about that a minute - **THAT** - **IS RELIGION !**

Saying I'm "Doing my best" - "I'm trying my best"
guys - **THAT** is what Religion is **BUILT ON**

But **God** wants to
Supernaturally - **Radically** - **Transform** your Life

& **THAT CANNOT** happen by you
"doing your best" - or - "trying harder"

It's **NOT** about you Trying Harder
Its about **God** Giving you **NEW LIFE** in Jesus Christ

IT'S ABOUT GOD GIVING YOU - A NEW MIND

Because **God Transforms** your Life
By **Miraculously Renewing Your Mind**

Again Rom 12:2 - ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, . . .

The word "transformed" is '**meta-mor-pho-mai**'
from which we get our word '**metamorphosis**'

which **means** to change the **FORM** or **STRUCTURE** of a thing

Now - I have to **share** a very cool "personal revelation" with you

Sometime - Somewhere - I had read
that this is the **same word** used

for the **Transfiguration of Christ**
on the Mt of Transfiguration in **LUK 9:29**

But over the years I've gotten better **GREEK TOOLS**

& I found out yesterday - that is **simply NOT TRUE**

It's **NOT** the same word used for the **Transfiguration** of Christ
& *here's the really cool part*

The **GREEK word** used for the **Transfiguration** of Christ means - ***to CHANGE TO ANOTHER (OR THE OTHER) FORM***

That's what happened at the **Transfiguration**
Jesus Christ changed to His **OTHER** Form

But Here - In **Rom 12:2** - the word means
TO CHANGE TO A NEW FORM OR A NEW STRUCTURE

Which is **very different** than the **Transfiguration** of Christ
& so - that was a **very cool** discovery for me

So - **Rom 12:2** tells us
NOT to be **CONFORMED** to this world - but
TO be **TRANSFORMED** by the Renewing of your mind

& we've **made it clear**
This is **NOT** something we can **DO** to ourselves
*altho we definitely have a **ROLE** (a part) in it*

But this **TRANSFORMATION** is done **IN US**
AS we are faithful to do "**our Part**"

Actually - the only other place - where this **EXACT word**
for **Transformed** is used - is in **2Cor 3:18**

2 Cor 3:18 - ESV → →

2 Cor 3:18 - ESV

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

This is a **PERFECT** explanation
of what the Word is talking about in **Rom 12:2**

We **ALL** - who are **BEHOLDING** the glory of the Lord
are **BEING transformed** into HIS image
from **one degree** of glory to **another** . . .
& this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit

This is **SO important** - we've **GOT** to Grasp this !

The Phrase "**Beholding the Glory of the lord**"

is **actually** a picture of you "**Gazing Intently**" in a Mirror
only the Image in the mirror - is **Not** YOU - it's the **Lord**

& then (miraculously) - as you "**Gaze Intently**"
at the **Glory of the Lord**

You begin to **TAKE ON** a Degree of His Holiness

As we "**behold**" (gaze intently) at the Glory of the Lord
we are **miraculously transformed** into **HIS** image
from one degree of glory to another - **BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

OUR JOB - OUR ONLY JOB - is to **BEHOLD**
(to Gaze Intently) - at the Glory of the Lord

& if we will - then the Holy Spirit will **TRANSFORM US**
BY RENEWING OUR MIND

& really this vs (**2Cor 3:18**) is one of the **best descriptions** there is
of **HOW** God "**Renews Your Mind**"

Again Rom 12:2 - ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, . . .

The word "**Renew**" means to **Renovate** - to **Remodel**
STRONGS says = "***a complete change for the better***"

& **THAT** is exactly where **we're going to pick up** Next Msg !!

We've started the **HOW TO LIVE** part today

But there's **so much more** - & it's so **critical**
we're going to **save it** for the nxt msg - **OK?**

To finish today

Let's just read what we've studied so far in these 2 Vs's

Rom 12:1-2 - ESV

1 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, . . .

Let's Pray