

Marching Orders Pt 2

Romans 12:1-2

- The last two weeks we've talked about **Evangelism**, today we're going to talk about **Equipping**, how once a person has been **won to Christ** it's now time for them to become **discipled in Christ**; and for that to happen some fundamental things need to take place in a person's heart and mind. **2 Cor 5:17** tell us once a person comes into faith with Christ they become a new creation, the things that they once lived for becomes old and the things of Christ become new.
- That means we become His, and everything about us is to reflect new ownership, that means I need to adapt a whole new mindset, perspective, and outlook on things, and for that to occur we need a transformation to happen > **Rom 12:1-2** gives us the formula from which we can draw from to see exactly how that happens in a person who before surrendering to Jesus only knew one way to live and that's for self. In these verses we're asked to make a conscious choice to give God **our bodies**, our **minds**, and **our wills**, and we do this because of the mercy shown to us by God, therefore were only able to offer ourselves to Him, as He works His mercy in us.
- **V1** it starts with our will, Paul says "**I beseech you**" this is a reminder that God calls us to make a choice about the way that we live for Him, they are already saved as he calls them brethren, so they've been won, but now they need to choose how they'll live out their salvation, and if they choose to surrender everything that's when Paul lets them know how that looks and what is needed, but you first have to choose, this is the tough part about being a Christian folks, as we love to say salvation is free but there is a real cost, and that cost is discipleship.
- The root word for Discipleship is "**discipline**" and we know that discipline doesn't come easy; in fact it takes a lot of work and repetition for discipline to become a regular part of our lives. When you're a kid one of the best things parents can instill in their children is discipline, because if they don't and leave it up to the world to show them it can be traumatic because the world is a cold taskmaster. The first day of my first job, taking the bus, finding the address of the building, getting lost, and finally showing up an hour late but just happy that I made it, instead of being greeted with a good try young man you'll get it right tomorrow, I was told be late one more time and don't bother to come back, all this at **14**, you talk about culture shock.
- Paul doesn't do that and neither does the Lord praise God, but they do give us the outline for being discipled; so after giving God our will next He asks for our bodies. Before Christ we used our bodies for sinful pleasures and purposes but now that we belong to Him He wants us to use our bodies for His glory. Our encouragement comes from the mercy God has shown us, and our example are the sacrifices from both the **OT** and **NT**, in the **OT** we saw "**Isaac**" willingly put himself on the altar offering to die in obedience to God's will, declaring "**He's a living sacrifice**".

- In the **NT** of course it's our Lord Jesus Christ, Who actually did die as a sacrifice in obedience to His Father's will; likewise we are also called to surrender our bodies as living sacrifices. For that to happen notice we see our will again as were asked "**to present**" we like a bride and groom in their wedding service commit themselves to each other we also commit ourselves to the Lord. A bride -groom shouldn't have to make this declaration every year as its forever, and here it's in this once and for all commitment that determines what they will do with their bodies.
- This sacrifice must be acceptable, or set apart for God, He doesn't want us offering Him anything, so if we're trying to give God something that is not in line with His Word He doesn't want it, for there is a standard involved in what we give to God as it must be holy and acceptable to Him. **V2** He has our will, He has our bodies, now He wants our minds, before our thinking is worldly, being conformed to this world, now it needs to be transformed, and renewed. Transformed means metamorphous, the same word used for Jesus transfiguration, it's the description of a radical change that's evident to all, its undeniable, and its glorious.
- The other place Transformed is used is > **2 Cor 3:18**- where we will be given our glorified bodies and stand in the presence of God beholding Him. The battle ground between conforming to this world and being transformed is within the mind of the believer, which is why we need our minds renewed. This word literally means "**to renovate**" and all renovations start on the inside not the outside, the world wants to change our minds so it exerts pressure from the without, but The Holy Spirit changes our mind by releasing power from within. So true discipleship starts with a change of thinking, which leads to a change of actions, which results in a change in direction.
- After this then were able to prove what is good, acceptable and the perfect will of God, for as were transformed on the inside, as a metamorphous has occurred for God's glory is shining through, for once were transformed on the inside the proof is evident on the outside, as others can see what the good and acceptable will of God is by observing your life, as we become God's walking talking billboards, speaking His message without even opening our mouths as people observe your life.