

Romans 12 – 21 February 2021

“Therefore...” Part 1

Introduction

*Paul wrote Romans as best document on salvation!!

***Rom 1-8** describes our natural unrighteousness & the solution of believing the cross of Christ has paid our way into a right relationship with God

***Chap 9-11** Paul turns to chronologically look at Israel

***Rom 12-end** is the application of righteousness to all the arenas of our life

Romans 6:4 – “As Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life.” But how?

Today, Romans 12 we’ll answer **How we apply our new righteousness to 3 arenas of our life**

#1 – Our Righteousness Applied To Ourselves: Be transformed, in mind, into a sacrificial giver (Vs 1-2)

Read Vs 1a – “*by the mercies of God...*”

1. This message is entitled “Therefore”
 - a. B/c of all that Paul presented in chap 1-11
 - b. B/c of God initiating all good things to us
2. In light of all the mercy God has shown us
 - a. We should act! We should apply our hearts to want He wants for us to do!

Read Vs 1b – “*present ur bodies a living sacrifice...*”

1. Read I Cor 6:20 – B/c Jesus sacrificed to free us from sin, He owns us
 - a. It's reasonable to give back ALL that we are
2. Cassie – “*Now I have given up on everything else, for I know it to be the only way, to really know Christ, & experience the life, that brought Him back to life again, & find out what it really means to suffer & die w/ Him, so whatever it takes, I will be one, who lives in the fresh, newness of life, of those who are alive from the dead*” (Read Rom 6:13)
3. Dual nature - we've sacrificed our old life as dead, & we're risen; offering our new life back to Christ

Read Vs 1c – *Service is worship*

1. Do you see your service for God the same as worshipping God?
 - a. Why do you worship? Why do you serve?
2. Presenting our whole life to God is both service and worship.
3. Our service/worship isn't a Sunday thing, it's a whole lifestyle of honoring God

Read Vs 2a – *“be not conformed...be ye transformed”*

1. Conformed or pressed into the world's mold
2. The world is daily pushing you to be like them or they'll call you strange
3. You're either conforming or transforming
4. Read II Cor 3:18 – It's a spiritual work to be being transformed by the Lord.
 - a. But where is this transforming supposed to be happening?

Read Vs 2b – “...by the renewing of your mind...”

1. Your primary battlefield is your mind
 - a. Act 14:2 – You’re being targeted in mind!
 - b. Dan 7:25 – Devil’s battlefield is the mind
2. We have to choose to set our minds minute by minute, situation by situation on what’s right
 - a. II Cor 10:5 – Allow only Godly thoughts
 - b. Rom 7:25 – Choose w/ your mind
 - c. Eph 4:22-24 – Choose to put off old & on new
 - d. Lam 3:19-21 – Bring to mind sin’s suffering & God’s goodness
3. Look at the benefits of setting your mind on what’s right
 - a. Phil 4:8-9 – Peace in the storm of thoughts
 - b. Isa 26:3 – Set your mind rightly & God will keep you there...in peace

Read Vs 2c

1. Only way to know God’s will: be yielded in mind
2. The will of God is to be like Jesus – sacrificial!

#2 – Our Righteousness Applied To The Church: Be a humble team player (Vs 3-8)

Read Vs 3

1. We have a role to play, but we're not the attraction, God Himself is
 - a. We're not the lawnmower man, we're the lawnmower
 - b. We're not the basketball player, we're the shoes
 - c. We are not the Savior, we are the tool
2. Our talents (on loan from God) are gifts...not to be bragged about – (Rush L. pic)

Read Vs 4-5

1. Each member has different office (Matt 16:27 - same word - deed, our practice)
 - a. We join our offices to form 1 body, of Christ

Read Vs 6a

1. Gift is charisma or graces
2. Stir up gifts in each other II Tim 1:6, I Pet 4:10
3. Read I Cor 12:4-7 – Different ways to use our gifts, but they're for the benefit of all the church

Read Vs 6b-8

1. Is your role prophecy? To speak that which comes from divine inspiration
2. Is your role ministry? To be a deacon or doing service for others
3. Is your role to teach?
4. Is your role to exhort? This is the same word as the Comforter...to beseech
5. Is your role to give? Do it without attention
6. Is your role to rule? Do it w/ care & attention
7. Is your role to show mercy on others? Do it w/ a smiley heart not with bitterness
8. This isn't intended to be a complete list
9. Whatever your role is in the church...do it well

#3 – Our Righteousness Applied To The World: Be a faithful, loving grace-giver (Vs 9-21)

Read Vs 9

1. Your love for the world should be sincere
2. Get involved with unbelievers
3. But don't let their evil stick to you

Read Vs 10

1. Your love for the world should be sacrificial, placing their needs above yours
2. It's when you show great value for others that you'll gain an influence in their lives

Read Vs 11

1. Earthly tasks should be motivated by the energy of the Holy Spirit within us
2. Earthly work should be the means to interject the spiritual into their lives

Read Vs 12

1. If you believe God about your future hope, you'll have these three things
 - a. You'll be able to rejoice thru hardness
 - b. You'll have patience
 - c. You be praying in communion w/ God
 - d. Parachute example – You'll cling to the “parachute” of Jesus if you believe the ‘plane is going down’.

Read Vs 13

1. We each bear our own burdens (Gal 6:5) & help each other w/ the heavy loads or ‘necessities’ of life (Gal 6:2)
2. Start your charitable giving by giving to Christians, then others
 - a. Be ready to help those w/ burdens

Read Vs 14

1. See vs 10 is in the good times, vs 14 is in the hard times...be gracious

Read Vs 15

1. Be empathetic to other's situations
2. It's ok to feel what others feel, as long as you don't allow your feeling to lead you into thoughts that are not true

Read Vs 16

1. Can you find purpose w/ poor regular people or do you need your latte in one hand while you're having your boat waxed?
2. Live a humble lifestyle

Read Vs 17

1. Overlook your adversaries advances toward you
2. It goes back to vs 12, if you believe God holds your future, you'll have patience thru troubles

Read Vs 18

1. Ask, ‘how can I come out of this w/ *peace*’?
 - a. But with 2 parties, we don’t always get to make the choices.
 - b. Don’t leave bitterness, when it’s in your power to bring peace

Read Vs 19

1. Do you believe that God knows how to preserve Christians for Himself & bring justice to the ungodly?
2. Having *faith in God’s justice* will allow for peace in your heart

Read Vs 20-21

1. Having *faith in God’s justice* will allow for you to offer grace to others
2. With your destiny settled you can focus on helping them come out from under the wrath that is on their head.

Conclusion – So, *therefore*...what do we do with this fresh, new life that Christ Jesus has purchased for us

- 1. When we apply our righteousness to ourselves; it should transform us, in mind, into a sacrificial giver**
 - a. You're either conforming into what the world wants OR you're transforming into the image of Christ Jesus
 - b. Battle is fought in the mind...your choice
- 2. When we apply our righteousness to the church; we should become a humble team player**
 - a. Our role isn't better than anyone else's, we need everyone doing their job
 - b. Even the talents we exercise were gifted to us by God, so we can't brag
- 3. When we apply our righteousness to the world; we should become a faithful, loving grace-giver**
 - a. Let your love be sincere & your energy be from the Lord as you seek to be gracious to all
 - b. Be a peace-maker in trouble as you wait for God to bring justice