

SPEAKER: Shawn Vandop February 26, 2023

GOD'S WILL: Good, Pleasing and Perfect

TODAY'S TEXT III Romans 12:1-2

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Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: ROMANS: Best News Ever

Message: Part 18 – GOD'S WILL: Good, Pleasing & Perfect

Speaker: Shawn Vandop **Date:** February 26, 2023



Connect (30min)

- 1. MONTH-END CHECK-IN: (Break into groups of 2-3 or Men/Women)
 - *
 Read Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (ESV)

 On a scale of 1-10 (Terrible-Excellent) how are you in these areas as we finish this month and head into March?
 - a. Mental Health
- b. Physical Health
- c. Spiritual Health
- >> Remember these responses as you head into prayer.
- - ☐ Read Psalm 25:1-7. Have one person read for this scripture for the group & use this as a guide for prayer.
 - Pray Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader time & transition to each component.
 - -- Pause (be still & listen. 2min)
- -- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),
- -- Ask (invite & request 4min.)
- -- Yield (surrender & trust. 2min)

Message Discussion (45min)

- 1. ROMANS RECALL
 - Romans 12 is a turning point in Paul's letter -- moving from theology to application, while looking back to his teaching in chapters 1-11. Can you summarize in your own words some of God's truths that are the basis for Paul's "And so..." or "therefore" in 12:1?
- 2. MESSAGE FEEDBACK: What did you learn from Sunday's message? What encouraged or challenged you?
- 3. GOD'S WILL HUNTING

When you think of **God's Will** which of the following terms do you best relate to:

- a. We FIND God's will.
- **b.** We **DISCOVER** God's will.
- c. We **LEARN** God's will.
 - Discuss.
- 4. READ [Romans 12:1-2
 - a. What do you learn about God and our relationship with Him from this passage?
 - **b.** Before going any further with this text, take a moment as a group and think about what it would look like for you to intentionally live out this text in your life? Brainstorm this together.

5. LIVING SACRIFICES

Old Testament worship was primarily manifested through animal sacrifice.

- a. What does Paul mean when he tells us to "give our bodies... as a holy and living sacrifice"?
 - (See also Romans 6:13-16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20,1 Peter 1:14, 1 John 2:15).
- **b.** How is this different and better than the sacrifices and worship of the Old Testament?
- c. Ok sounds good, but how do we practically live this out?

6. THINK DIFFERENT

a. Paul commands believers: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of the word, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

Why does the mind need to be "transformed" to worship God and know His will?

- (READ Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:8-10, 1 John 3:18)
- **b.** What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus followers having their minds changed by the Holy Spirit? What would it look like to have Jesus followers thinking the way God wants them to think? How would things be different?
- c. What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?
- **d.** What may be the cost if we are transformed and apply Paul's instructions to our lives in our culture and community?
- **e.** What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

Application & Prayer (15min)

- What would your life look like if you consistently experienced the good, pleasing and perfect will of God?
- How will you apply Romans 12:1-2 to your life?
 What views or actions are you going to make in your own life as a result of studying these verses?
- In response to our sharing, scripture and discussion how can we pray for you?

Resources

Set Free Retreat

Our next *Set Free Retreat* is coming up on **April 14-15** at Main Street Church. This is an excellent way to apply the message of Romans to your life.

Visit www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free for more info and registration.