



Go for God!

The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 12:1-8

“The Christian Life -- Hallelujah!”

> Introduction: We are now in the third section of *The Book of Romans*:

- Section #1- Chapters 1 – 8 - *Doctrine* (Sin, Salvation, Sanctification) – Faith

- Section #2- Chapters 9 – 11 - *Dispensational* (God’s sovereignty with Israel) – Hope

- Section #3- Chapters 12 – 16 - *Dutiful* (Christian service) – Love

> There are two keys to the CHRISTIAN LIFE in these verses 1-8:

- Key #1 – We the BELIEVER LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD!

- Key #2 – We the BELIEVER IN THE WORK OF GOD!

- Key #1 – We the BELIEVER LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD!

(v1) PREPARATION for ministry starts with PRESENTATION: “Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy (*hagios* - physically, pure, morally blameless) acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (or worship).”

- Paul warns believers to be true to the faith in holiness and righteousness, for our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, let’s read, understand, and apply the instructions found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-20.

- Warren Wiersbe gives an excellent comment on this verse, “The verb *“present!”* in this verse means *“present once and for all.”* It commands a definite commitment of the body to the Lord, just as a bride and groom in their wedding service commit themselves to each other. It is this once-for-all commitment that determines what they do with their bodies.

Paul gives us two reasons for this commitment: (1) it is the right response to all that God has done for us - “I beseech you *therefore*, brethren, by *the mercies* of God” (italics mine); and (2) this commitment is *“our reasonable service”* or *“our spiritual worship.”* This means that every day is a worship experience when your body is yielded to the Lord.”

(v2) What does it mean to be conformed to this world?

1 John 2:15-17 - *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. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh* (sexual immorality), *the lust of the eyes* (covetousness), *and the pride of life* (self-glory, egotist, conceit) -- *is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- We are to be *transformed by the renewing of our minds*, how?

Transformed is *metamorphoo* in Greek our English word is *metamorphosis*. It is a supernatural work of God as we pray and study His Word. The word *renew* is *anakainosis* (Gk.) which is a RENOVATION.

Our MIND and its new theme of thought can be understood by practicing Philippians 4:8- *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.*

- Listen to Porter Barrington the evangelist as he explains the MINDSET of a SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVER!

- Key #2 – We the BELIEVER IN THE WORK OF GOD!

(v3) All that we do for God is under His GRACE! The term *to think soberly* is to have a soundness of mind or to use discretion. The *measure of FAITH* is the amount of faith needed for a calling or task in God's Kingdom for His glory, honor, and praise!

(v4-8) Discover your gift and use it to bless the body of Christ! Pray about your gift and put it to work!

> What is:

- PROPHECY - This is not predicting the future, but according to 1 Corinthians 14:3 - *he who prophesies speaks EDIFICATION and EXHORTATION and COMFORT to men*. Prophecy is confirmed through the Word of God. (1 Corinthians 14)

- MINISTRY (service) – Translates *diakonia* – from which we get *deacon or deaconess* – those who SERVE. Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*. As a Christian (a Christ follower) we must choose to serve or to sit and be selfish; remember what Jesus told the devil in Matthew 4:10 - *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

- TEACHING – Having the ability to give systematic INSTRUCTION in God's Word. In the New Testament, the concept of teaching usually means instruction in the faith. Thus, teaching is to be distinguished from preaching or the proclamation of the gospel to the non-Christian world. Teaching in the Christian faith was validated by Jesus, who was called "TEACHER" more than anything else. Instruction in the faith is essential to the spiritual growth of Christians and to the development of the church, the Bible contains numerous passages which deal with teaching (Matthew 4:23; Luke 4:14; Acts 13:1-3; Romans 12:6-8; Galatians 6:6).

- SOUND DOCTRINE is to be taught and maintained: Titus 1:9 - *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict;*

Titus 2:1 - *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine;*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (Who is THEY? "They" is the false church of the last days! - Revelation 3:14-22)*

- EXHORTATION - This gift brings forth the ideas of ADVISING, PLEADING, ENCOURAGING, WARNING, STRENGTHENING, and COMFORTING. The apostle Paul often exhorted his fellow Christians to live out their calling as ministers of the Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:17). It has been defined as "the act of presenting such motives before a person as may excite him to the performance of duty."

- GIVING – An individual who sacrificially gives of himself. This one doesn't give for thanks or recognition, but for the one he helps and for the GLORY of the Lord with liberality and sincerity. These folks have a heart filled with generosity.

- **LEADS** – To **GUIDE** or to **ADMINISTRATE** with diligence or earnestness and zeal! Leadership through administration provides the ministry with **ORGANIZATION, COMMUNICATION, DELEGATION, MOTIVATION, and INSPIRATION** to **FRUITION!** It's been said that a good leader must inspect what he or she expects, simply put, follow the process or project to completion. A good administrator has an eye or gift to recognize peoples **TALENTS, SKILLS, ABILITIES** and **GIFTS**, whereas, to put the brothers and sisters, young and old alike in the right places doing the right things for the glory of God! (Matthew 25:14-30 "*Talents*")

> **MERCY** – This gift displays sympathy for someone else. God shows mercy by actively helping those who are miserable due to circumstances beyond their control. We see this aspect of mercy especially in the life of our Lord Jesus. He healed blind men (Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34) and lepers (Luke 17:11-19). These acts of healing grew out of his attitude of compassion and mercy. Finally, because God is merciful, He expects His children to be merciful (Matthew 5:7; James 1:27). This person has a special sensitivity for those that are hurting and the resources to help. Remember do it with **CHEERFULNESS!** ("The Good Samaritan" – Luke 10:30-37)

> **BONUS SIDENOTE: Church Administrative Gifts in Ephesians 4:11-16:**

(v11) Christ's calling and gifting for the administration of the church:

> **APOSTLES** – The authority committed to the apostles by Christ was unique. It could not be transmitted to others. The apostles could install elders or other leaders and teachers in the churches, and they could authorize them to assume special responsibilities; but apostolic authority could not be transferred. Their authority has not come to us through their successors; it has come through their writings, which are contained in the New Testament.

> **PROPHETS** – A New Testament prophet is one who proclaims the Word of God (Acts 11:28; Eph. 3:5). Believers in the New Testament churches did not possess Bibles, nor was the New Testament written and completed. His Spirit would share God's truth with those possessing the gift of prophecy. The purpose of prophecy is "*edification, encouragement, and consolation.*" (1 Cor. 14:3)

> **EVANGELISTS** – A person with a heart for souls, one who loves to proclaim the gospel of Christ, a soul-winner! The Scriptures talk of Philip as an evangelist (Acts 8; 21:8).

> **PASTORS AND TEACHERS** – A Pastor is a shepherd, meaning he is the feeder, protector, and guide of a flock of God's people. Instructions and duties of a Pastors and Deacons is found in what is called the "Pastoral Epistles" known as 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy and Titus.

(v12-16) These callings and gifts are for what purpose?

> **SEVEN PURPOSES ARE LISTED:**

(1) (v12a) To **EQUIP** the saints;

(2) (v12b) For the **WORK** of the ministry;

(3) (v12c) For the **EDIFYING** of the body of Christ;

(4) (v13) Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the **KNOWLEDGE** of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

(5) (v14) So that all believers will not be **DECEIVED**;

(6) (v15) We speak the **TRUTH** in love, that we may grow up into Him, Christ who is the head;

(7) (v16) Whereas, we the united body functions together causing growth for the edifying of itself in **LOVE!**

LET'S GO4GOD!!!