CALVARY CHAPEL
MARTIN COUNTY

The Doctrine of Sanctification Part 2
How Do We Go About Becoming More Like Jesus Christ?
The Three Tenses of Salvation
Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

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Last week we began to look at the guidance being given to us by Paul as he ties everything he has taught in Romans so far together for us urging us to literally present our bodies as a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ. A living sacrifice is one which is wholly involved in serving the Lord in what it is He has called us to do as well as a holy and separated sacrifice that maintains their relationship with Jesus. He is teaching us all about the second tense of salvation here. Sanctification, the becoming more like Jesus.

Paul is telling us that we must make the decision definitively, but we all, as a living sacrifice, tend to wiggle off the altar every now and then.

Romans 12:1–2
“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **And do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (NASB 2020)

We talked about this earlier in our study, the three tense of our salvation. Salvation, being made right before God and being justified is glorious. But it is not all He wants to do for those of us who do believe.

Paul summed these three tenses up in his second letter to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 1:9–10
“Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, **who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us**,” (NKJV)

Past tense – “who delivered us from so great a death.”

We have been saved from the penalty of sin. We have been justified.

Ephesians 2:8
“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” (ESV)

If you have believed and placed your trust in the completed work of Jesus Christ for salvation, it is a done deal.

The fact that it is a done deal is why Paul can urge and exhort us as he does here in Romans 12. We already covered what this means in reality for us as followers of Jesus. You may not feel saved when you pray and make Jesus Lord, but the reality is, as Simmons puts it, “the salvation of the believer is complete. As we have said of justification, so we may say of this tense of salvation: it is an act, and not a process. It occurs and is complete the moment the individual believes. It admits of no degrees nor stages.” (Simmons 1955, 330)

Our reality as a result of this is a change that will impact our eternity.

John 5:24
“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (ESV)

As Paul has already told us, the change when we believe is earth shaking. We are no longer enemies of God, we are at peace, in fact, Jesus calls us friends and Paul says we are much more. We are now children of God, heirs of God and fellow heirs of Christ meaning that we are also now family and all of us have a future which in the eyes of God is already but not yet. We struggle with and also rejoice in that.

Romans 8:16–17
“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (NASB 2020)

At the exact moment we believe, we are justified, we have been saved.

Romans 8:23
“And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.” (NASB 2020)

All of that is, for us as followers, as believers in Jesus Christ, now in the past. But we do not live in the past, we live in the now. And that is what Paul is addressing here in Romans 12.

We are talking about the second tense of salvation; we are being saved. Let’s refer back to our text in 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 1:9–10
“Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, **who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us**,” (NKJV)

Present tense – “and does deliver us.” Welcome to the whole idea of sanctification, this is indeed what Paul is discussing here in Romans 12 and giving us practical things to do in order to make sanctification a real thing in each of our lives.

Yes, we do indeed cooperate in this, and we can race forward becoming more like Jesus by saying yes to Him and the Holy Spirit every moment of every day, or we can exercise our free will and become bitter stubborn dweebs. Dweeb is a technical term for someone who has decided that even though they are saved, they no longer are wanting to follow the Lord and have run off some direction to do things all on their own. This does indeed bring up the entire idea of discipline and the potential that unless repentance takes place in their life with a solid application of 1 John 1:9, the one working at becoming a dweeb will actually succeed and go home early.

From a non-spiritual perspective, being a dweeb is not a bad thing. I’m one and still tend to go there unless I am closely supervised by my wife.

But from a spiritual perspective, well here is the definition from the Oxford Dictionary. A dweeb is “a boring, studious, or socially inept person.” (Soanes and Stevenson 2004)

Paul tells Timothy this is not a good thing as he discusses the false teachers here at the end of the age.

2 Timothy 3:6–7
“For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.” (ESV)

If you are not participating in becoming more like Jesus, which is exciting to do and exciting to experience, then you are drying out.

In Bible studies, if you even go to them, you are the one who sits in the corner and says MEH to just about everything. Eventually you stop going. It is all about you after all and even the Holy Spirit is working you over and there may also be obvious signs of discipline, you are in the flesh, you are bored, and everyone around you knows how spiritually inept you are now. The hard thing, not for you but for the body, is to continue to pray for and love on you.

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Jesus used to be all you talked about, but not now. You couldn't wait to see what the Spirit was going to do next, now, self-absorption and sin has brought you to the point where you want to become invisible.

The remedy, exercise what 1 John 1:9 says. It may not be like it was before but when a prodigal comes home, there is once again life, because now the Holy Spirit is no longer grieved but He is once again picking back up where you had been, in the process of sanctification. And now, the reality of being sanctified shows up.

1 Corinthians 1:18
"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God**." (NASB 2020)

Yes, that is Paul once again talking about those of us who have been justified and are now being saved, being made more like Jesus, being sanctified.

And now for a little theology. Prior to coming to Christ, technically, we are sanctified in preparation for what we are about to hear and react to. It is the Holy Spirit protecting the space because He is with us at this point and He is doing all that is required to set us apart so we can hear and comprehend the gospel. Then there is what happens when we believe.

Our reality is that when justified, at that moment, we are, as Dr. Fruchtenbaum puts is, positionally sanctified. This means that there "is salvation from the penalty of sin. This is the kind of sanctification in which God sees the believer by virtue of the believer's being in the Messiah. From the divine viewpoint, the believer is already viewed as being perfect because of the believer's position of being in the Messiah." And yes, some would just leave that as justification. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 13)

What Paul and what I have been talking about, and what the Bible speaks tons about, it what would be called progressive sanctification. This you and I experience.

What does this mean and how is this important to me? Again, there are things the Spirit does for us, and then there are those things we participate with the Spirit in. I am using Dr. Fruchtenbaum's outline.

First of all, we learned in Romans 6:1-14 that we can be free from the power of sin. The key is here.

Romans 6:12–14
"Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and **do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body's parts as instruments of righteousness for God**. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace." (NASB 2020)

Yes, Paul has just restated this for us in Romans 12:1.

Romans 12:1–2
"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (NASB 2020)

Right here in verse 2 we are given the second purpose of progressive sanctification, why this is important for us to be participating with the Holy Spirit. We are conforming ourselves to become more and more like Jesus Christ.

When the term Christian, was first coined and used it (Acts 11:26) was intended to be pejorative. Eric Black gives us additional historical insight. “Many biblical scholars agree the label “Christian,” as first applied to those who followed Jesus, was not a compliment. Some think the term was given by pagan governing officials to differentiate Jesus followers from the larger Jewish community, neither of which they had much love for. Whoever in Antioch used the term first, they did not utter “Christian” with respect.” (Black 2021)

The bad news, with many in the world, it has never ceased to be a word used in derision and it is moving heavily in that direction right now in this country. The problem we see and complain about are those who allege to be followers of Christ by using the name Chrisitan, yet their manner of living tells you that is not nor has it ever been a reality in their life. And because there is also a history of nation states using the name Christian, ever since Constantine used the cross as a symbol of governmental and temporal power, it has now been associated with worldly viewpoints. A good example in this nation is a strain of Christian Nationalism which is not to glory of God at all.

We are to conform to Christ, to be like Him. We want to engage in being sanctified in order to counteract worldliness, not to indulge in it. We spent time in Romans 12:1 learning that. That is by the way, the third purpose of why we want to be involved in progressive sanctification.

Earlier in verse 1, we read that for us to present our bodies as we enter into this adventure of being more like Jesus, is our “spiritual service of worship.” Yes, engaging in and participating in the process of sanctification does indeed grow you and me spiritually. That is the fourth thing is does.

I have talked with so many people who want to grow and become more spiritually oriented and rather than resting in and following the Lord, they go chasing after various false teachers who make the promise of instant spiritual gratification. They believe by attending or giving to a person who promises spirituality in exchange for their loyalty and more importantly, their money, that they will achieve what it is the Holy Spirit wants to achieve in each and every one of us as we grow to become more like Jesus. Simony, a heresy, is not the avenue, growing, presenting our bodies, conforming to Christ, and all the pain in growth that goes with it, is the only way to do so.

And right here in vers 2, we get the 5th thing that sanctification does for us. We really do become more like Jesus. The freaking out becomes moderated. The anger begins to fade. The language begins to change, and the hatred turns towards things people do rather than people. This is only possible by conforming to Him.

Philippians 1:9–11
“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**” (ESV)

What we learned earlier in Romans 6:13 has now been summed up for us as one of the two means God uses to sanctify us. Consider this the 6th thing we see happening. It is all about presenting ourselves to Him.

Romans 6:13
“and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body’s parts as instruments of righteousness for God**.” (NASB 2020)

And keep cleaning.

Ephesians 5:26
“so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by **the washing of water with the word**,” (NASB 2020)

Like I said earlier, there is no instant spirituality. There is nothing I can conjure up in my own power and strength to make me more like Jesus, I cannot do it. But He can. The 7th thing for us to remember here is that sanctification, especially progressive sanctification which will go on until we either are raptured or go home to the Lord, is God’s work. He does this for a reason.

2 Timothy 3:17
“**so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work**.” (NASB 2020)

I do have bad news though, at least it was for me when I learned about this. Sanctification makes me more like Jesus, it cannot and will not make me perfect in my flesh like Jesus.

That perfection is the third tense of salvation, glorification, and yes, we will eventually get there. But remembering this is important as we are still in these heavily flawed and sin capable physical bodies which are still under the curse. We are but not yet in the heavenlies. This is the 8th thing we need to remember. Becoming conformed to Jesus, in other words, not allowing the world to continue to press us into its mold, does not yield sinless perfection in this life. Paul was pretty clear to us about that.

To be in the process though of progressive sanctification means we are taking seriously what Paul said to us in verse 1.

He said to “present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice.” That means not only are we sacrificing ourselves to His service in whatever it is He has us doing, but we are also committed to maintain separation from the things of this world. This would be the 9th thing to consider that is happening.

1 Peter 1:15–16
“but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”” (ESV)

When you and I first came to Christ, we had no idea what that word, holy, meant. We were busy doing life and doing so as good pagans.

Then we believe and the Holy Spirit moves in. I see, in my minds eye, He takes a walk down some of the pathways we have in our minds and is making a list of what has to go and how soon it has to go. That is reflected with the Holy Spirit beginning to show us some lifestyle changes that He would like to see. For some, ti could involve the ending of a relationship or even a lifestyle. For others, it could be a change in friends and who they hang out with. We all have things that He begins to impact and some of those require Him to take a crowbar to remove as it is heavily embedded. Holiness is indeed something we attain to as we are being sanctified. John put it this way.

1 John 3:2
“Beloved, **we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is**.” (ESV)

What I have been talking about, unfortunately, is a process. I am one of those who would prefer McDonald’s spirituality. I would love nothing more than to have been able to pull up to the window where Christ is and believe and receive Him and then go to the next window to pick up my fully enabled and

enhanced super spirituality. Not happening. The 10th and final thing we realize is that there are two things going on at the same time and I must participate in them.

First of all, just as Paul told us back in Romans 6, the clean-up of our life removes the removal of moral corruption and pollution that we spent a lifetime putting there. Some of it is really foul and as much as I wish that it all took place at the moment of salvation, it didn't. Something about growing and becoming more and more like Jesus as I see, repent and realize that only in Him I can have victory over that thing.

Romans 6:6
"knowing this, that **our old self was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;" (NASB 2020)

Secondly, as that is taking place, the new life which is completely His is beginning to take root.

Colossians 3:1–2
"If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth**." (ESV)

And this is done by presenting, as often as necessary, our bodies as a living sacrifice with all that means. It also means to not conform to the world.

This brings us to the third tense of salvation.

We have discussed, in review, the first and second tense of salvation and since we are in scriptures dealing with the second tense, are rather majoring in that at present. But there is a third tense as well, our future. We will be glorified; we will be saved from the presence of sin. Paul has already told us what that day will look like.

Romans 8:23
"And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body**." (NASB 2020)

This future is what we are all looking forward to. The day we have a body that not only no longer subject to the cure, but one which is incapable of sinning. Glorified. We are all so looking forward to this.

1 Corinthians 15:51–57
"Behold! I tell you a mystery. **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality**. When the **perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV)

And we know that changes could happen at any second. Once again demonstrating to us the already but not yet we have been dealing with. When we are changed, it will be then that we have reached that goal that we were told about He was committed to bringing us to.

Philippians 1:6
"And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**." (ESV)

He who began, we saved and is saving you, will ultimately save you at the day of Jesus Christ which is the pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

Our topic is sanctification, that is indeed what Paul is writing about. It is allowing our experience with the God of the universe to change us as we realize who He is and what He has done to achieve our eternal salvation. Francis Schaeffer points out that since we have this revelation of Christ, we must act on it.

The biblical message is truth and it demands a commitment to truth. It means that everything is not the result of the impersonal plus time plus chance, but that there is an infinite-personal God who is the Creator of the universe, the space-time continuum. We should not forget that this was what the founders of modern science built upon. **It means the acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord, and it means living under God's revelation. Here there are morals, values, and meaning, including meaning for people, which are not just a result of statistical averages. This is neither a utilitarianism, nor a leap away from reason; it is the truth that gives a unity to all of knowledge and all of life.** This second alternative means that individuals come to the place where they have this base, and then they influence the consensus. Such Christians do not need to be a majority in order for this influence on society to occur. (Schaeffer 1982, 251)

Romans 12:1–2
"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **And do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (NASB 2020)

In our culture today, this idea of not conforming to the world is alien. Is that what Paul is saying. Is he saying to stop doing this or do not do this? Wuest translates verse two and his translation, I believe, adds clarity for us.

Paul exhorts the saints, "Stop assuming an outward expression which is patterned after this world, an expression which does not come from, nor is it representative of what you are in your inner being as a regenerated child of God." One could translate, "Stop masquerading in the habiliments of this world, its mannerisms, speech expressions, styles, habits." (Wuest 1997, 206-207)

The word we have translated here as conformed is συσχηματίζεσθε (syschematizesthe) and it is in the imperative with the negative ahead of it. So, the idea is to not do this.

The word means "to correct, remodel, to be conformed, to be in a similar position." (Montanari 2015) And with the negative it means not to do it.

The sense of what we are learning here is that we are not to engage in acts where we take on an outward expression of what we say or do that is not in alignment with who we really are on the inside.

That is what our culture leans on us to do everyday. The culture has given a pass to certain lifestyles, but if we hold to a Biblical worldview, then we are intolerant. But our reality has nothing to do with that,

God said it is an abomination and it still is. It is sin and those doing or living in the lifestyle need to come to Jesus instead of trying to find the answer to the emptiness inside through whatever it is they are chasing.

Then there is the word translated as world, it is the Greek word αἰῶνι (aioni), this is not the world kosmos which shows up elsewhere in scripture talking about the world system. Here, the word Paul uses, per Phillips, “signifies the condition of humanity, which, since the fall, is in spiritual darkness, with a nature, tendencies, and influences controlled by the powers of darkness in opposition to God, and now under the prince of this world.” The world has its fads and fashions and they change with each generation. Its mold exerts pressure on us all, not only in such relatively minor matters as dress and diet, but in such far more serious areas of life as morals, ethical standards and religious beliefs. The world is the devil’s lair for sinners and his lure for saints. It is human life and society with God left out.” (Phillips 2009, Ro 12:2) And for many today, it is too late, they are already conformed, they reflect the culture.

Every choice, every decision, what we decide to do hour by hour every day, has eternal importance connected to it. Are the decision reflecting our being a living sacrifice or do they reflect something else. For the believer, every decision leads to another and to another and they are either a chain of decision following the guidance of our master, or are they following what we want instead. George Barna puts it this way.

“**You participate in the battle for your spiritual affection every day, making decision after decision that either blesses or curses God and simultaneously blesses or curses Satan.** Unfortunately, as “fallen creatures”—that is, people tainted by the proclivity to sin—no human being ever has or will live a sin-free life. Nobody ever will unerringly make God-honoring choices. Regardless of your intentions, there are times when you will be guilty of sin, whether it is immoral thoughts, cuss words, unrighteous anger, bad stewardship of resources, “white” lies or lies of omission, loving material goods, or other faults. No matter what the sin, you are incapable of eliminating that tendency through your own desire, power, or actions. So, yes, we are born into a life of sin; it is part of our spiritual DNA. **But because of who your Father is—God in Heaven—you have hope! God provides you with power, delivered through His Holy Spirit who lives within Christ’s devotees, to deny the lure of sin in favor of righteous choices that honor God.**” (Barna 2026, 48)

That is exactly why Paul is doing, he is showing us how to appropriate that power and how to live a life that is characterized by loyal surrendered sacrifice and rejecting to allow the culture around us to squeeze us to be like it.

If you make this decision, be prepared to be alone unless you are with brothers and sisters in Christ. If we have truly laid ourselves on the altar as a living sacrifice, then we will indeed not allow the current culture around us to shape and mold us. We are no longer being molded by the media, the news, the internet, the left or the right. We will not allow the deceptions of the devil to gain control of us and we will indeed begin every single day armored up and pressing the attack on the enemy as we take more ground for Jesus.

When we live a Holy Spirit filled and led life, then we can indeed resist what it is the devil is selling today as normal.

I wish I could tell you that those things we must avoid are easy to detect, they aren’t. And sorry, creating a legal list just makes you a legalist into religion and works rather than grace. By using the term aion, Paul is not locking us into a specific era, he is telling us that we need to be constantly aware of the fact that things change in the world all the time. Christ never changes, but the world changes by lunch time. I am beginning to understand why there are some who opted to gi and live in caves. That isn’t the answer either. The world will indeed figure out a way to get that sin and the appropriate presentation of it to you.

Rather than chasing after what is the latest “it” thing today, we are to pursue Christ and those things which never change. Jim Townsend continues, “Christians should be absorbed with what is substantive rather than with what is simply surface or superficial. They should be committed to what is essential and

eternal rather than what is merely ephemeral (though, as we've seen, this doesn't exclude our washing cars, housecleaning, playing with toddlers, etc.). The different scenes in the various acts of a stage play shift, and fleeting fashions (whether in dress, appearance or ideas) change, but our magnificent obsession must be what is "holy and pleasing to God" (Rom. 12:1)." (Townsend 2002, 93)

Romans 12:2
"And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (NASB 2020)

I think we understand now the negative side to this, the need for us to become more like Jesus Christ totally precludes a nod to the world.

1 John 2:15–17
"**Do not love the world nor 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever." (NASB 2020)

So now we flip the paper over and it is not what not to do, it is what we must be doing. We must be, again the imperative here, transformed. The word translated transformed is μεταμορφοῦσθε (metamorphousthe) and yes, we get the word metamorphosis from this. The word means "to change in a manner visible to others, to change inwardly in fundamental character or condition, be changed, be transformed. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 639)

And here in the text we are told that this change, this transformation is possible only by the renewing of our mind, the word is νοός (noos). What we are talking about here is "the faculty of intellectual perception, mind, intellect as the side of life contrasted with physical existence, the higher, mental part of a human being that initiates thoughts and plans…understanding, mind as faculty of thinking…way of thinking, mind, attitude, as the sum total of the whole mental and moral state of being…be transformed by the renewing of the mind, which comes about when Christians have their natural νοῦς penetrated and transformed by the Spirit which they receive at baptism Ro 12:2." (Arndt, et al. 2000, 680)

This type of transformation, this process of having our minds our intellect conformed to that of Christ, is only possible to those who have been saved. Coombs adds that "the new life that is implanted by the Holy Spirit at regeneration motivates and enables the believer to present himself as a living sacrifice to God. However, if this sacrifice is to continue to please God in the ongoing trials and temptations of everyday life, the believer must continually be transformed by the renewing of the mind. The believer's mind needs to be, in effect, reprogrammed so that his thinking is in accord with this new life in the Spirit (cf. Rom 7:6)." (Combs 2006, 21)

Presenting our bodies should be ideally a once and done thing, but our sin nature and our inability to remember what we did yesterday for the Lord requires us to keep short accounts. There is nothing wrong with renewing our commitment to Him daily. And being sanctified, becoming like Jesus Christ, requires as a part of the overall process our willingness to indulge in being continually transformed by the Holy Spirits renewing power.

Our problem is our brains have been programmed the way we wanted them to be programmed and there are certain sins and other things we have rewarded ourselves with over the years. Now that changes.

The brain must be rewired as the Holy Spirit goes about the process of reprogramming us. If you ever think you have arrived, you haven't. This is a slow process which begins when we say yes to Jesus and ends either with our death or our being glorified and then raptured to be with the Lord.

God wants us to think like Him. How are we doing on that? I know I am a work in progress because all it takes is one driver to cut me off and boom, I am in the flesh again.

So, given we now know He wants our minds to be renewed so that we think like He does, what else does that mean or us to be doing?

Yep, being in and making His word an integral part of us. Coombs again tells us “to think like him, to know and conform to his thinking, means that his truth, his Word must be the standard that informs and regulates our renewed minds. Mind-renewal is ultimately a process of internalizing the Truth.” (Combs 2006, 22)

This is the pinnacle of non-conformity to the world. Conformity to Christ.

Romans 12:1–2
“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect**.” (NASB 2020)

Now, with the Holy Spirit renewing our minds, things change. We are talking about the nuances again of the word used, noos. Our intellectual perception changes. Now, when we read or study something, we have a new standard of truth we measure it against.

The most amazing thing for many is that they suddenly realize the double speak that was being used by members of the world to get their way. It is because our perception of reality has changed and with the new perception of reality comes a perception of the existence of absolute moral order and moral truth. God never changes and what He says never changes. And when you begin to examine His word and discover first-hand what He says is sin and an abomination, is truly a perception shaking thing. Yes, there are those who say they are believers who work overtime to redefine sin to take the sting away, but again, once you know that the Bible is true truth, you will want to measure everything against that standard.

Going on with the changes, which is proving up the will of God, pir way of thinking, literally our attitude also changes. As we look at the world around us, before Jesus, it was crazy and we were either mad at it, in a panic at it, or trying real hard to numb ourselves from it. Then in comes Jesus.

The world is still crazy and now we know that to be the case since the world is in rebellion to the creator. Romans 1 is totally true and now all those people who were bothers before, we now see as those who need to know the Savior. Yes, we are now beginning to look at the world as Jesus does, in need of a Savior.

Our thoughts, our decisions, what we stood for may not be the same as what we stand for now. Everything changes. In the past you may have been one of those people who went along with the flow and whatever the latest flavor of the day was fine with you. You do you and I’ll do me. But since meeting Jesus, I want Him above all else to be magnified and glorified in my life and that means things will change. They have to. He begins adjusting us here and there and soon we become different people. Our thinking, decisions, actions have all been transformed by the renewing of our minds.

The purpose for us to be renewed is so that you and I, individually in all we do, prove up and show the will of God in operation every day, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Grant Osborne ties this all up for us, “this means that as we seek to please God and obey his will, we discover that his will is best for us, pleases us and is perfect for us (or perhaps “matures” us). In short, as we please him (v. 1), he

pleases us (v. 2). In this sense we are God's "show and tell" that his will works out for the best in our lives." (Osborne 2004, 322)

What do we see as we wrap this up? When we come to Jesus Christ, we are justified, His righteousness is placed to our account, the word is imputed, and God sees us in the righteousness of Jesus. WE are told there are numerous things which have taken place. Burt as sanctification begins to spool up, now we begin to see the reality of what has taken place. A. W. Pink contrasts it for us.

"They differ in their design: justification removes the obligation unto punishment; sanctification cleanses from pollution. They differ in their form: justification is a judicial act, by which the sinner as pronounced righteous; sanctification is a moral work, by which the sinner is made holy: the one has to do solely with our standing before God, the other chiefly concerns our state." (Pink 2005, 14)

But if you have not given your life to Christ, then you lack the first point, that first tense is not past tense for you, it is still out there as a possible future. Let's lock that down.

Romans 12:1–2
"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (NASB 2020)

Romans 3:21–24
"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13
"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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