

GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE: ROMANS 12

(Rom. 1:8-17)

Introduction:

1. Another installment in our sermon series on “Great Chapters of the Bible”. This morning we are going to consider Romans Chapter 12.
2. We are going to consider the transformation spoken of with regards to the seed of transformation, the fruit of transformation and the purpose of transformation.

Discussion:

I. The Seed of Transformation (Rom. 12:1, 2).

- A. The seed of transformation is a contrite heart (the why).
 1. Paul “beseeches” (*parakaleo* = calls to one’s side for the purpose of instruction-Thayer) Christians in Rome to be transformed or continue to be transforming.
 2. Paul makes his appeal via the “mercies” (*oiktirmos* = compassion, mercy-Thayer) of God (note Rom. 11:30-32).
- B. The seed of transformation is an obedient heart (the what).
 1. Motivated by our godly sorrow, Christians are encouraged to present their bodies as a living sacrifice to God, that is, total devotion (note Rom. 11:30-32; cf. Ex. 21:5, 6).
 2. This service is to be like the sacrifices under the Mosaic system; holy, acceptable.
 3. The “why” makes the “what” only reasonable (*logikos*; cp. 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Rom. 11:33-36; Rom. 8, 6, 5, et al).
- C. The seed of transformation is the word of God (the how).
 1. Christians are exhorted to “renew” their mind (cp. Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16; 1 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10; Titus 3:5; Matt. 13:1-23).
 2. They are told that in doing this they will prove (discern) what is that good, acceptable, and perfect (*teleos* = complete) will of God.
 3. If we have the mind of Christ we will know how to live the life of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

II. The Fruit of Transformation (Rom. 12:3-20).

- A. The fruit of transformation is the right attitude (altitude) toward others (vv 3, 8). We are one/equal in Christ, all under Him (cp. Rom. 2:1-3; Rom. 11; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12; Jas. 1:9, 10; 2:1-9).
- B. The fruit of transformation is the right relationship (vv 9-20). As Christians we are now all people in the family of God, citizens of the kingdom of heaven, and members of the same body.
 1. That entails love for one another; true fervent (v11, *zeo* = boiling over) love.
 2. That entails a positive, joyful outlook of life (v 12 = *chairō* = joy [related to *charis* = grace, that which brings joy]; *hupomeno* = to stay under the load; and *proskartereo* = to remain strong in).
 3. That entails reacting appropriately to other people in all areas of life. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing. Mourn with those who are mourning. Help those in need of help (this applies to our enemies too, they are in need of great help).

III. The Purpose of Transformation (Rom. 12:16-21; esp. v 21).

- A. The purpose of transformation is our salvation via the correct mindset. We are servants of God and not God (Note vv 2, 3, 16, 17, 19).
- B. The purpose of transformation is peace-making (vv 1, 5, 18-20).
- C. The ultimate purpose of transformation is overcoming evil (v21). We overcome the works of the devil by giving ourselves completely to the works of God.

Conclusion:

1. That darkness can become light, evil can become good, and lost can become saved is proof of the greatness of our God. Transformation from worldly/fleshly to spiritual/heavenly is accomplished by our knowledge of and devotion to God’s word. Truly to Him be glory forever. Amen.
2. Invitation.

MORE ON "ROMANS CHAPTER 12"

1. Romans chapter by chapter.
 - A. One = The Gospel has been revealed to all but some men do not receive it and actually try to hide it. These men, God has given over to destruction. It is what they seek and He complies.
 - B. Two = Therefore all are without excuse with regards to living according to the truth, all are accountable to the same standard: both Jew and gentile.
 - C. Three = Jews enjoyed a special relationship with God and received more information from God, but salvation was never by the Law, but always by faith.
 - D. Four = Abraham was righteous and saved, but he was not under the Law. This proves that faith is what saves, not the Law.
 - E. Five = Our salvation by faith proves the love of God and the supremacy/primacy of Christ.
 - F. Six = Once freed from sin we cannot go back to it, we have died to sin and now live for God in Christ Jesus.
 - G. Seven = The Law was made null just as a marriage vow after a death. The Law served to convict of sin but provided no overcoming of it; that is only by God through Christ.
 - H. Eight = Salvation is to those who live according to the Spirit (spirit) and they cannot be overcome. They are the sons/children/temples of God.
 - I. Nine = The Jews were allowed to serve God and should not complain but be thankful.
 - J. Ten = Israel needs to understand that salvation is for all through hearing, believing, and confessing God's word; and repenting/obeying in response to it.
 - K. Eleven = God succeeded in His use of Israel, He did not fail. Many of the Jews have failed to partake of God's success and as a result the Gentiles have flooded into the kingdom. Hopefully this will make the Jews jealous and they will come and submit to God's will. All must.
 - L. Thirteen = Living according to the Spirit (spirit) means submitting to governing authorities and loving your neighbor (cf. Matt. 22:37-40).
 - M. Fourteen = Living according to the Spirit (spirit) means loving the brethren especially. We must not condemn when we do not understand, and we must not look down upon those who are weaker in the faith. Christ has given us blessed liberty, let us not abuse it (cf. Jas. 1:25; Gal. 5:1, 13; esp. 1 Cor. 10:29).
 - N. Fifteen = Living according to the Spirit (spirit) is what Jesus Christ did, so we ought to imitate Him in all.
 - O. Sixteen = Greetings, encouragements, and farewells (love, love, and love).

2. Compare Rom. 12 with Eph. 2.
 - A. VV 1-10 God has saved us by faith in Jesus Christ despite our rebellion and wicked works. As a result we ought to walk according to the Spirit (spirit).
 - B. VV 11-18 Remember all that God has done for you in Christ Jesus and live by the Spirit (spirit).
 - C. VV 19-22 If we live according to the Spirit (spirit) we are citizens of the kingdom, members of the household of God, and temples of God.

3. Consider Rom. 12 with Matt. 5:1-16 in mind. Be transformed, this will bring about persecution, but that is a blessing not a curse. By transforming you are a blessing to all around you (cf. Gen. 12:2; et al).

4. Make application and allow yourself to be transformed (actively transform yourself via the word of God). This will bring some trouble your way, but see it for what it is; proof of your Christ-likeness (2 Thess. 1:5). Continue to transform, influencing those around you and aiding them in their transformation. The ultimate transformation is coming (1 Cor. 15:51-57)!!