



Sunday, September 27, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Romans 12:1-2

This is one of the most familiar passages in the New Testament for many Christians. The trouble with passages that become familiar to us is we begin to think we've mastered the truths they describe. We begin to dismiss convictions arising from these passages because, perhaps, we've wrestled with convictions from them before. We think that we have gotten over those hurdles and end up in a position where we are arrogant about our own spiritual maturity.

The challenge, then, is to hear these verses in a fresh way. We need to remember, as Paul himself says elsewhere, "not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained." (Phil. 3:12-16). So, our commitment to being renewed must be constant.

Context

In order for us to properly offer ourselves as living sacrifices and commit to continuous renewal of our minds, we must first understand what Paul means by "the mercies of God." In the first eleven chapters of Romans, he outlines at great length how God's wrath is being revealed because of our sin, that we are all sinners, therefore all deserving of God's wrath. Then he talks about the righteousness of God that comes to us sinners not by works, but by faith alone in Christ, who died for us, was raised for our justification, has given us the Holy Spirit to empower us to live faithfully, and all according to God's purposes in election.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 12:1-2

“It’s Time to Change”

Present Your Body

- Living Sacrifice
- Motive... Mercies of God
- Reasonable

Renew Your Mind

- Stop Conforming
- Be Transformed
- Two Ways to Live

How to Renew?

- Regeneration Titus 3:5
- Renewal Eph. 4:23
- Reflection 2 Cor. 3:18

Discuss

- 1) Why might a Christian be tempted to be a “chameleon” (conforming our speech or our actions to our surroundings)?
- 2) How conscious are you day-to-day of the “mercies of God” in Christ? How can you cultivate regular reflection on the gospel?
- 3) What is the difference between obedience that is rooted in gratitude to God for what He has done in Christ and obedience that is rooted in a sense of guilt or obligation?
- 4) As Christians, we are tempted to think we have arrived, that because we have believed in Jesus and repented at one time, that we no longer need to be renewed or transformed. We develop a sense of having “arrived” in the Christian life. How do you guard yourself against that temptation?
- 5) It’s tempting, if we embrace the idea that we have somehow “arrived” in the Christian life, to begin looking down on others that we perceive to be less spiritually mature as those who have not “arrived.” How do we combat that temptation?