

Sermon: **Life Worship (Romans 12:1-2)**

Date: **March 13, 2016**

The book of Romans has been called Paul's magnum opus. It is his longest letter and the fullest expression of his gospel-centered theology. In chapters 1-11, Paul takes an in depth look at the saving work of Christ. He discusses topics such as the depravity and sinfulness of man, justification by faith, the sovereignty of God, and the importance of gospel preaching. In Romans 12, Paul begins to explain what the new life we have been given in Christ ought to look like. If Romans 1-11 is an explanation of what has been "done" for us in Christ, then Romans 12-16 is an explanation of what we must "do" in response. In this week's study, we will look at the first two verses of Romans 12. We will learn how our lives must be an outpouring of worship to God. Since God has given his everything to us, we ought to give our everything to him. This means, we need to put off the ways of the world and renew our minds with the Word of God.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Romans 12:1-2 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a. In verse 1, what is Paul referring to when he says "by the mercies of God"?
 - b. How does the gospel—the good news of Jesus—fuel our worship?
 - c. What is significant about the words "present" and "sacrifice" in verse 1? What does this teach us about how we ought to live each day?
 - d. Paul commands us to not be conformed to this world. What are some ways that you have seen Christians conform to the world and compromise their faith?
 - e. What can we do to resist conforming to the world in our own lives?
 - f. Instead of being conformed to the world, we must be transformed by the renewal of our mind. How do we renew our minds?
 - g. How can the renewal of our mind help us discern the will of God?

2. The verses below summarize what Paul has already talked about in Romans 1-11. Read each of these verses, write them out one after another below, and reflect on the beauty and grace of the gospel.
 - Romans 1:21; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9,10; Romans 10:13

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul spends the first 11 chapters of Romans explaining the gospel before he begins telling the Romans how they should live in chapters 12-16?
2. What does it practically look like for us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice each day?
3. What are some ways that we might be tempted to conform to the patterns of this world? How can we fight against this?
4. What role does the Word of God play in the renewal of our minds? Why is it so important that we spend daily time in God's Word?
5. As a small group, what are some ways we can help one another renew our minds?

Accountability Questions

Is there something in your life that is not "holy and acceptable" to the Lord? Is there an area of your life where you have conformed to a pattern of this world (school, entertainment, social media, friends, etc.)? What does the Lord want you to do about it?