

Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Mark Your Observations

Record Observations & Questions

Repeated Alike Different Accentuated Related Think Context!

Romans 12:1-8

- 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,
 by the mercies of God,
 to present your bodies
 as a living sacrifice,
 holy and acceptable to God,
 which is your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not be conformed to this world,
 but be transformed
 by the renewal of your mind,
 that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,
 what is good
 and acceptable
 and perfect.
- 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you
 not to think of himself more highly
 than he ought to think,
 but to think with sober judgment,
 each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- 4 For as in one body
 we have many members,
 and the members do not all have the same function,
- 5 so we,
 though many,
 are one body in Christ,
 and individually members one of another.
- 6 Having gifts that differ
 according to the grace given to us,
 let us use them:
 if prophecy,
 in proportion to our faith;
- 7 if service,
 in our serving;
 the one who teaches,
 in his teaching;
- 8 the one who exhorts,
 in his exhortation;
 the one who contributes,
 in generosity;
 the one who leads,
 with zeal;
 the one who does acts of mercy,
 with cheerfulness. (ESV)

Review

God is faithful to His Word. He keeps His promises, even His promises to Israel when they rebel against Him. Paul is an illustration of a Jew who stood opposed to God but who became a recipient of God's mercy and grace—not only in his personal salvation but in his vocation as a missionary to the Gentiles.

Introduction

What comes first—thinking or doing?



Why do we focus so much of our effort (in Christianity) on changing behavior rather than thinking?

How can you change the way you think?

Romans 12:1-2

Group activity



Identify the “things” that need to be “done” in Romans 12:1-2. That is, what are the commands?

Romans 12:1

What is the starting point?

What do you have control over? What must be done by God?

Romans 12:2

How does the world seek to make us conform to its pattern?

How have Christians allowed the world to become their mold?

Dedication leads to discernment and discernment to delight in God’s will.

Application:

Paul challenges us to dedication, transformation, through renewal.

When you look back in 6 months, 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, what do you hope to see? A different person? A different situation?

12:3-8 The priorities of the well-developed Body

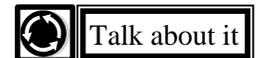
12:3 Right thinking about ourselves

How does Paul define true humility?

Why is it hard to find the proper balance?

12:4-5 Right thinking about others

How is this counter-cultural?

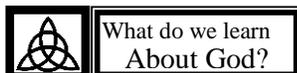


12:6-8 Right thinking about grace-gifts

Summary/Application

God desires that those who are being consecrated to Him in order to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, think correctly about themselves and others so that we realize the interconnectedness and interdependence that God has designed.

For the church body to fulfill what God desires, each individual must think correctly—humbly and sensibly about themselves and their role in the Body. Each member has been given a ministry to accomplish for the benefit of the Body.



Merciful, Gracious, Giver of “gifts”



How is your thinking being influenced by the world?

What must you do to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind?”

How are you thinking rightly and wrongly about your strengths and weaknesses?

How are you ministering to the Body?

The challenge is to honor God at all times through a life transformed by correct thinking that leads to correct living—living out God’s will.