

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Transforming Your Mind

Romans 12:2 gives us two other things we must do, beyond offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices, if we are to successfully follow His will. These two are, in fact, two sides of the same coin, a negative and positive.

1. Avoiding conformity to the world is the negative side. The Greek word literally means to be fashioned together with. The “world” is really the spirit of the age. The world system is a whole way of life, under the supervision of Satan (the “god” of this world), and carefully organized to express the philosophy, the “mind,” of the wicked one. Thus, we are always under pressure to be pressed into the mold of the age. We must resist.

Nor can we avoid this conformity simply by making out a list of a few specific “worldly” things we will not participate in. No, the world’s philosophy cuts too deep for that and touches on values, standards, ideals, ambitions, fashions—in short, everything about life that expresses the very meaning of life. We have got to be determined, regardless how difficult and unpleasant, to refuse to let the world’s “mind” set our life-style.

2. Expressing transformation is the positive side. The Greek word literally means a “metamorphosis.” And Paul is not talking to sinners or looking back to one’s conversion experience. That was a metamorphosis, all right. But this transformation is a continual, daily, Christian experience. (The Greek tense of both the negative and positive commands indicates continuing action.)

What, then, is this continuing transformation? The next phrase makes it clearer: “by the renewing of your mind.” “Mind” is the way we think, our attitudes, our philosophy. You see, the world continues to bombard us, in a thousand ways, with its philosophy. We must wash our mind every day, and so continually transformed, if we are to resist the world’s way and walk, instead, by God’s will. And the Word of God is the only source where we can find God’s “mind” by which to renew our own. The choice, then, is clear: the world or the Word, the mind of this age or the mind of God. Which influence shall we let set our “minds”? If we are to walk in God’s will, our minds must be renewed by God’s way of thinking, and thus we will continue to experience transformation of life.

3. The result of all this is indicated in the last clause of verse 2: “that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” “Prove” means “put to the test,” and this implies both knowing God’s will and practicing it with success and satisfaction at the results. Thus tested, God’s will proves to be good and acceptable and perfect. God’s will is the very best thing we can experience in life.

(excerpt from Book of Romans by Robert Picirilli)

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

1. What are some areas of your life that you would like to be transformed?
2. Last week our topic was Transforming Your Body. Romans 12:1 tells us to be a living sacrifice. How does your mind and body impact each other?

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13

Do Not Be Conformed

3. What are some ways of the world that are easy for you to conform to?
4. Since Jesus has delivered us from the “power of darkness”, what steps can you take not to conform to the world?

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:17-24; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Be Transformed

5. What does a transformation look like in the life of follower of Christ?
6. Have you ever tried to make a transformation in your life by your own will power? How can you cooperate with God in the transformation He is making in you?

Thursday: Colossians 3:1-11; Philippians 4:6-8

Renew Your Mind

7. How do you renew your mind?
8. Since the Holy Spirit does the renewing and transforming (Titus 3:5; 2 Cor 3:18), what is your part in the process?

Friday: Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 13:20-21

Will of God

9. How does Romans 12:2 describe God’s will? Do you trust God’s will for your life?
10. What are some ways you surrender your will to God?
11. Our topic next week is Transforming Your Service (Romans 12:3-8). How can a renewed mind help in this area?