**Romans Series August 13, 2023**

**Being Transformed by the Renewing of the Mind- Romans 12:1-2**

Christians Give of Themselves to **Serve God**

* Flowing from the knowledge of God’s saving grace, true Christ followers will devote themselves fully to the Lord
* It is not a forced path, but a voluntary one that results from yielding self to Him

Therefore

* Signals the intention to transition to the implication and application of Romans 1 – 11
  + Romans 1 – 11 is doctrine / teaching
  + Romans 12 – 16 is application flowing out of the doctrine

I urge you

* A strong word of encouragement and appeal to put into practice
  + More than just asking a favor of you
  + It is an urgent pleading

Brethren

* A generic reference to all Christ-followers
  + Not just men, but men and women united together by the common sacrificial bond that Jesus gives

By the mercies of God

* Mercy is used 12 times in Romans alone
  + In Romans, it refers primarily to the act of God in bringing eternal life to the sinner
  + It is the fact that God does not give us what we deserve
  + Paul has demonstrated many, many mercies of God in Romans 1 - 11
* Because God has replaced the condemnation that we deserve with His bountiful grace, believers are called into action
  + It flows out of the natural response of appreciation and gratitude for what God has done through Jesus Christ

Present Your Bodies A Living and Holy Sacrifice

* In the Old Testament, people brought their animal sacrifices
* We do not need to shed the blood of animals because Christ Jesus has shed His blood
  + Instead, we offer ourselves to God to serve Him
  + Our sacrifice is holy because it is set apart to God

Acceptable to God Which is Your Spiritual Service of Worship

* God is pleased and welcomes the people that devote themselves to His service
  + It is an act of worship to serve Him

Conformed

* Conformed
  + To shape according to a **pattern or mold**

But be Transformed

* Transformed (metamorphoo)
  + To change inwardly in fundamental character
  + To be changed in a manner that is visible to others
  + God’s design is that the believer be shaped into the life pattern and example set by the **Lord Jesus Christ**

By the Renewing of Your Mind

* + To cause something to become new and different,   
    with the implication of becoming superior
  + All actions must start with a determination in the mind to do or be a new and different person
  + What your mind gravitates toward is what you will emphasize in your life

So that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**.

* When we renew our minds by meditating on God’s Word, He shows us His will
* It will always be grounded in God’s Word

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