

# Transformation is the Heartbeat

## Romans 12.1-2

### Transformation

- To discern what the will of God is
  - The distracted do not know what the will of God is
    - Religious Distraction (like the Pharisee) or Worldly Distraction
- To do what the will of God is (because it's good, acceptable, and perfect)
  - Moo (p. 757): “[*dokimizo*] the will of God means to understand and agree with what God wants of us with a view to putting it into practice”
  - The deceived do not follow what the will of God is
    - Cowards who cannot find it in them to do what is good, acceptable, and perfect – think it costs them less not to do it even though it costs them more
    - Blind who do not see that it is always right to do what is right (good, acceptable, perfect) – they do not see the beauty in it
- Don't miss this: *God doesn't want us to obey but to transform us so we joyfully and routinely obey* – RENOVATION
  - It's good, acceptable, and perfect – why wouldn't we routinely obey with joy?
  - Transformed people are drawn to the will of God – like noses that smell good cooking

To get there...

### Soaked in the Gospel (v.1) – “by the mercies of God”

- Remember that God had mercy on you – you didn't deserve it (PITY)
- Remember that Jesus died for you – you couldn't have paid for it
- Remember that someone shared this news with you – you needed to hear it

### Notes and Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word “renovate,” what comes to mind? What about “transformation?” What similarities do you find? What differences?
2. Reread the Focus Passage (Romans 12.1-2). In the sermon, transformation and the will of God went hand in hand. Why is that? How is that? What personal examples can you think of where that has held true?
3. To discern the will of God and do it are equally important. Which do you struggle more with? Based on the reasons above (because you are distracted or because you are deceived), which do you struggle with the most? Are there reasons that didn't get mentioned?

4. Read Romans 9.14-16 and Romans 5.6-8. These reflect the first two points of being “soaked in the Gospel.” How does it help transformation to remember God’s pity and His love?
5. Who was the person who brought the Good News to you? (Romans 10.14-15). What is the name of one person in your life that we can pray for you to take the Good News to this week?

## **Life as Worship (v.1)**

- Present ourselves to God – all of us, every part of us
  - Templar Knights – baptize me but not my sword
- Only reasonable response – what if someone gave you the most incredible gift?
  - But what about in the midst of trials? Romans 8.18

## **Renewed in Mind (v.2)**

- Consume the Bible, don't conform to the world
  - Why? #1 – it shapes what you think about
    - He has the best possible answers to the most important questions
    - Jesus is better – His way is better too regarding EVERY possible scenario – sexuality, money, politics, ethics, theology
    - What are your inputs?
  - Why #2 – it shapes how you think
    - The worldview we hold filters the input we receive
      - Places and assigns value to the information we take in
      - Danger #1: Retreat
        - Tendency is to withdraw because of WHAT is being said instead of appropriately filtering it, assigning value to it, and help others do the same (CT @ Esteban's)
      - Danger #2: Compromise
        - "You will watch a generation of Christians – of Christians! – set the Bible aside in an attempt to become more like Jesus. And stunningly, it will sound completely plausible. This will be perhaps the cleverest of the devil's schemes in your generation. Sacrifice Truth for Love's sake. And you will rise or you will fall based upon whether you will sacrifice one for the other. Will you have the courage to live in the tension of both Truth and Love?" ~ Beth Moore @ Passion 2017
      - Instead, we stand right in the middle of a broken and self-destructive world and proclaim hope in Jesus and surrender to Him because of the cross and resurrection
- Dwell with Him, don't feed on distraction – 17x a day we check social media, what if we prayed like that?
  - Sometimes God grabs our attention but other times we have to put our attention on Him (Ps 16.8)
    - Remember, prayer and Bible are not at odds but intertwined threads that keep us tethered to God
  - 2 Corinthians 3.18

## Questions for Discussion

1. The legend has it that the knights of the crusades (in particular the Knights Templar) would allow themselves to be baptized but not their swords. If you were tempted to hold up one aspect of your life as you were surrendering the rest, what would that be? How do you combat that temptation now? How is that living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice to God (when you surrender **everything** to Him)?
2. Whom have you seen go through trials and still live their lives as worship unto God? What did that look like? How did it impact you and others you know?
3. In the section about consuming the Bible, we talked about how it shapes not just what you think but how you think. How have you seen this to be true? In what areas of your life does it put you at odds with those around you? How does YOU consuming the Bible also help OTHERS think about their lives?
4. Beth Moore is quoted above. "You will watch a generation of Christians – of Christians! – set the Bible aside in an attempt to become more like Jesus. And stunningly, it will sound completely plausible." Have you seen this to be true? In what areas is it most tempting in our world? In your life? How can we help our kids with this temptation?
5. Read Colossians 3.1-4. What kinds of practices can you do to Dwell with God? What is one step that you can commit to this week to help you set your mind on things above and set the Lord continually before you?