

Transformed

Romans 12:1-2



Best Prediction of the Future

Tomorrow will be just like today

The safety of low expectations

“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who are complacent,
who are like wine left on its dregs,
who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing,
either good or bad.’” Zephaniah 1:12

God’s Mercy in Romans

Salvation “does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.” *Romans 9:16*

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” *Romans 3:23-24*

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” *Romans 8:1-2*

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters,
in view of God’s mercy,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God—
this is your true and proper worship.
² Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve
what God’s will is
—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



The Big Idea

God calls all who are saved to pursue being fully transformed

Buying a house includes the intention to make it better

Letting it decay is nonsense

God’s purpose:

Rescue

“Glorify” = share in God’s nature

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” *Romans 8:29*

A very real danger

“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again.

You need milk, not solid food!” *Hebrews 5:12*

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.” *1 Corinthians 3:1*

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” *Revelation 3:17*



Our upward calling

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 3:12, 14*

Steps in the Journey of Transformation

Step	Head	Heart	Hands
1	I don't know what the good is		
2	I know	I don't want it	
3	I know	I want to want it	
4	I know	I want it	I can't do it
5	I know	I want it	Kind of, sometimes
6	I know	I want it	It is automatic

CMC Core Value #6

"We are committed to building a community that practices superabounding grace while calling our people to complete obedience to Christ."

Superabounding grace

In view of God's mercies

Complete obedience to Jesus

Whole being as a living sacrifice

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Difference between tolerance and patience

"Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake." *Romans 1:5*

Application

1) Be honest with God

Where is growth still needed?

Am I willing to face MY shortcomings? Do I even want to grow?

It's not like He doesn't know!

"I'm not ready to talk with you about _____. But I will try to accept help. In mercy."

2) Pursue and expect transformation, with patience and perseverance

This takes faith!

With God, all things are possible

"Through [his own glory and goodness] he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature" *2 Peter 1:4*

3) Take an honest look at every part of your life

Note about transformation

Path passive and active

A **passive verb**: something God must do

A **command**: something we must pursue

Use all the expressions of Christianity

Bible study | Meditation | Prayer | Fellowship | Worship | Service | "Common grace"

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is your reaction to this idea that God is working (and promised) to transform all who trust in Jesus?
2. What has been your journey of growth? What are your expectations for how you will grow?
3. What is the work of growth for this season for you? How will you use all the expressions of Christianity in that growth?

Conversation Starters

What brings genuine change for good in people? What has helped you grow?