

Application: The Behavior of God's Righteousness

Romans 12-16 (3/31/10)

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

INTRODUCTION

1. Tonight we are concluding our survey of the book of Romans.
2. We have already looked at the subjects of condemnation, justification, sanctification, restoration, and tonight we're considering application.
3. In these final 5 chapters, Paul explains in great detail how believers are to practically live out the rich theological truths of chaps. 1–11. God has graciously given believers so much, that Paul exhorts them to respond in grateful obedience.¹
4. Paul gives 11 chapters of doctrine and now in chapters 12-16 he gives the practical application to that doctrine.
5. In titling this last section *application*, Chapters 12-16 deal with righteous behavior—that which marks one who has been justified by faith in Jesus Christ.
6. Paul begins chapter 12 with the familiar word “therefore” and then urges these believers to present their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is their spiritual service of worship.

¹ John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997). Ro 12:1.

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7. As we have stated every time we see the word “therefore,” we need to understand why it is there.
8. As William MacDonald says, “Serious and devout consideration of the mercies of God, as they have been set forth in chapters 1–11, leads to only one conclusion—we should present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.”²
9. In other words, since “from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (11:36), specifically what Paul has just addressed in chapters 1-11, we are to...***present your bodies.***

² William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997). Ro 12:1.

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V. Application (Romans 12-16)

A. Present Your Bodies (12:1)

Everything in this verse is foundational to what he says in chapters 12-16.

It's like what he says to the Corinthians in **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)** ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

To “present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God,” also means...

B. Do Not Be Conformed to this World (12:2)

Phillips paraphrases the first part of this verse as “Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.”

The word “conformed” (*syschematizo*) refers to assuming an outward *expression* that does not reflect what is really inside, a kind of masquerade or act. ³

³ John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997). Ro 12:2.

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Don't allow the world to "shape [your] behavior"⁴

Don't be like Israel who wanted to be like the other nations around them (1 Sam.8:19-20).

Instead you need to...

C. Be Transformed By Renewing Your Mind (12:3)

"Transformed" (metamorphoo) from which the Eng. word "metamorphosis." It connotes a change in outward appearance.

Matthew uses the same word to describe the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:2).

Just as Christ briefly and in a limited way displayed outwardly His inner, divine nature and glory at the Transfiguration, Christians should outwardly manifest their inner, redeemed natures, not once, however, but daily (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:18).⁵

⁴ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁵ John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997). Ro 12:2.

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Romans 13:14 (NASB) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

This transformation, Paul says, occurs as one renews his mind.

To renew your mind you must consistently study and meditate on Scripture (Ps.119:11; Phil.4:8).

When you are in the process of renewing your mind you will...

D. Do Not Think More Highly of Yourself (12:3)

We are to think "so as to have sound judgment."

Now in vv.4-8 he shows why that's important.

You're not alone. You're not in isolation.

You are part of the body of Christ and as such "individually members of one another" (v.5).

And since we are "many" we have a function.

Paul lists our function in vv.6-8 when he says...

E. Use Your Spiritual Gift (12:4-8)

1. Prophecy (v.6)

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2. Service (v.7)
 3. Teaching (v.7)
 4. Exhortation (v.8)
 5. Giving (v.8)
 6. Leading (v.8)
 7. Showing mercy (v.8)
- F. Love Without Hypocrisy (12:9-21)
1. Be devoted (12:10a)
 2. Give preference (12:10b)
 3. Be diligent (12:11a)
 4. Be fervent (12:11b)
 5. Serve the Lord (12:11c)
 6. Rejoice in hope (12:12a)
 7. Persevere in tribulations (12:12b)
 8. Be devoted to prayer (12:12c)
 9. Meet needs (12:13a)
 10. Practice hospitality (12:13b)

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11. Speak well of your persecutors (12:14)
 12. Rejoice and weep (12:15)
 13. Be humble (12:16)
 14. Do not retaliate when wronged (12:17-21)
- G. Submit to the Governing Authorities (13:1-5)
1. Do not resist their authority (13:2-5)
 2. Pay your taxes (12:6-8a)
- H. Love One Another (12:8b-14)
- I. Accept One Another (14:1-15:13)
1. Regardless of what they eat (14:1-4)
 2. Regardless of when they worship (14:5-9)
 3. Stop Judging (14:10-13a)
 4. Remove the stumbling block (14:13b-23)
 5. Bear the weaknesses of those without strength (15:1-13)
- J. Personal Remarks (15:14-33)
1. Paul is convinced they will do the right thing (15:14)

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2. Paul's reason for being bold on some points (15:15-16)
 3. Paul's boasting of things pertaining to God (15:17-21)
 4. Paul's hindrance in coming to them (15:22-29)
 5. Paul's request (15:30-33)
- K. Commendations and Greetings (16:1-16)
- L. Warning (16:17-18)
- M. Final Instructions (16:19-27)

CONCLUSION

1. That concludes the book of Romans.
2. All men are condemned and in need of God's righteousness.
3. That righteousness is not obtained by works or the keeping of the law or circumcision.
4. It is obtained by faith in Jesus Christ.
5. When you believe you are then declared righteous by God.
6. You die to sin and the law and you possess the Holy Spirit.

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7. This “grafting” in that Paul refers to in Romans 9-11 is the same provision He has made for His chosen people—the children of promise—the true Israel who He elected before the foundation of the world.
8. Since God has done all of this, we are to live in obedience to Him by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices.
9. I hope you understand that connection in what Paul has given in the book of Romans.
10. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that totally transforms a believing sinner.
11. If you have never repented and turned to Christ, I urge you to do so now.
12. Let's pray.