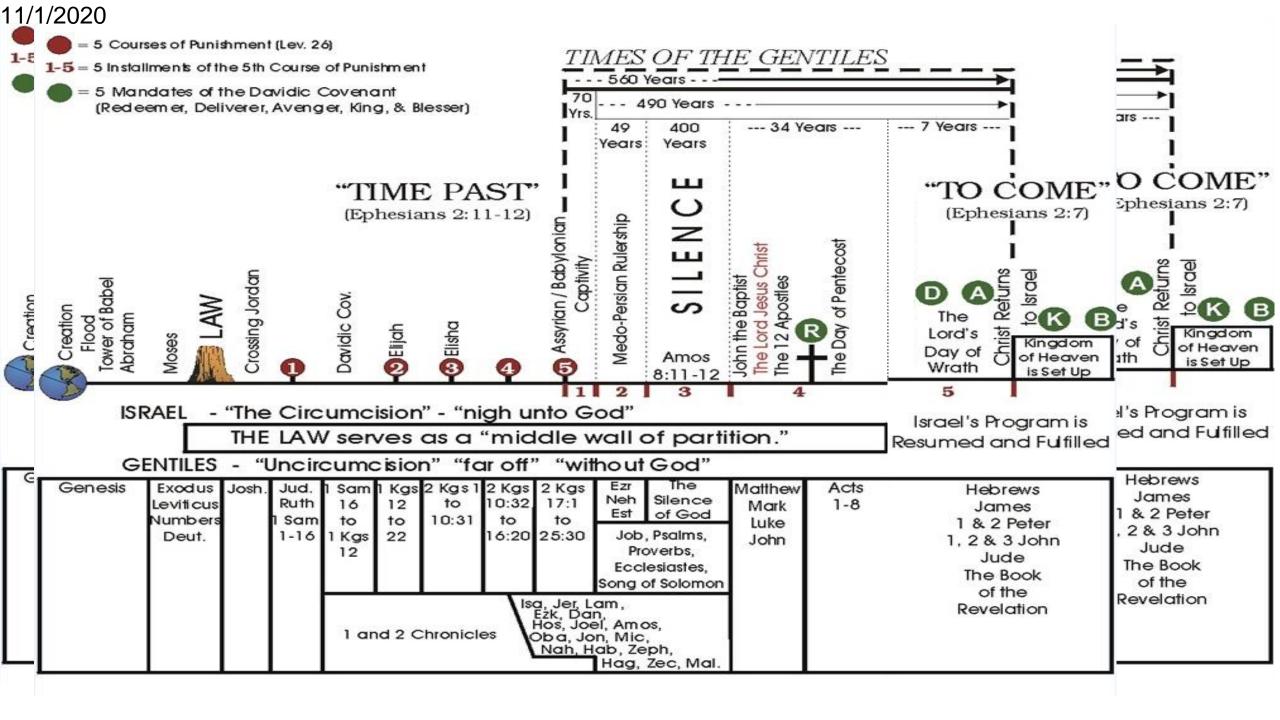
Renewing The Mind Rom. 12:1-2



- 1. This verse is talking about something more than identity theology—live out who you really are in Christ.
- 2. As important as that is, Paul is not drawing our attention to the living believer (Rom. 6) or the living body (Rom. 8).
 --He is drawing our attention to the living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1)
- 3. Perhaps it would be best to paraphrase it this way: Ye (living believers because they died and rose again with Christ and have presented their members unto God FOR THEMSELVES in accord with Rom. 6) now present your living bodies (which are living because you are walking according to the Spirit who gives life to your mortal bodies in accord with Rom. 8) to God as a living sacrifice FOR OTHERS.

- 4. Since there is only one living sacrifice in Israel's sacrificial system
 —the once a year offering of the goat on the Day of Atonement
 —Paul is probably alluding to that. Of the sacrifices on that day,
 the other ones were for Aaron HIMSELF. This sacrifice of
 the scape -goat was for OTHERS (in this case Israel). (Lev. 16)
- 5. Of course, this brings us back to the Love of God at the Cross of Christ where He died FOR OTHERS—Agape Love—which the Holy Spirit pours out in our hearts. Anything done motivated and pushed forward by this Love is always set apart for God's purpose (holy) and always acceptable to Him (because He is doing it in and through us).
 - 6. This is our reasonable service because it is the result of God's Word not the word of the world (1 Peter 2:2).

- 7. This isn't re-dedicating your life everyday unto God. Believers are called upon to adopt an attitude of service based on God and His Word to them—today primarily Paul's Epistles—and to make it characterize their lives.
- In Romans 6 believers are called upon to keep on reckoning themselves alive BEFORE GOD through Christ and keep on presenting themselves UNTO GOD.
- 9. In Rom. 12:1 they are called upon to: offer up their bodies as a living sacrifice UNTO OTHERS.
 - --This is super-human love that can only be generated by the Holy Spirit that flows out of Christ and His Cross

- 10. Rom. 12:2 tells us how we do that. This is where most believers falter.
 - a. Rom. 8:29: God has pre-determined that all believers are to be transformed (KJV has conformed but Gk. word is sym -morphous—complete, permanent, inner transformation) to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29)
 - b. Rom. 12:2a: Therefore, they are not to conform themselves (Gk. word is syschematizo—unstable and transitory, change in outer appearances) to this world system.
 - c. Rom. 12:2b: Rather, be transformed (Gk. meta—morphous —complete, permanent, inner transformation) by the renewing of your mind (2 Cor. 3:18—changed=transformed).
 - d. Christ was transformed/transfigured with the inner Kingdom Glory that completely changed His outer appearance. (Mat. 17:2).

<u>The flow of Rom. 12:1-2:</u>

Present bodies a living sacrifice

You do this by not conforming yourselves to the world

You do this by being transformed (by God)

And you do this by renewing your mind with Pauline Grace Truth (12:3).

Let's flip the flow:

Renew your mind with Pauline Grace Truth.

God will use this to transform you from the inside, giving you a new heart and mind.

Which will empower you to not be conformed to the world. And to instead present bodies a living sacrifice

- 11. Most believers hear the first part of the verse but not the second. The goal is not to push out the things of the world, that just leaves us with an empty head that the world flows back into. We are to take in God's things, which will then push out the world's things.
 - a. In a house of our minds, we are not to focus on taking out the trash.
 - b. We need to focus on bringing in the riches of God's.
 - c. The key is not focusing on stopping something but on starting something—intaking, focusing, enjoying, God and His Word.
- 12. Rom. 12:2 doesn't tell us to re-decorate, clean up or renovate the mind. We are told it has to be created anew and only God can do that through His Word.

- 13. It is not a matter of fixing up your current world view. It is a matter of letting God replace your current worldview with His heavenly, divine view.
 - a. You do this through the in-take of Bible truths which when embraced through faith will automatically push out the old worldview by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. First comes positional, doctrinal, dispensational truth of Rom.
 1-11 and Eph. 1-3, explaining what God has done and is doing today in Christ.
 - c. Only after that does God give us something to do based on what He has done in Christ—offer up our bodies in service to others—in Rom. 12-16 and Eph. 4-6 because Pauline Grace Truth transforms us from the inside.

- 14. The correct order is to bring in God's Word more and more, which will push out the things of the world more and more, which will renew your inner person more and more, which will transform you more and more, pushing away the things of the world more and more so that you can serve God by serving others sacrificially, selflessly, more and more.
- 15. First Pauline Grace Truth must recreate the mind and heart to operate in accord with God's Word (Rom. 6:17) that the Spirit overflows them with Agape Love (5:5), then and only then can we serve in a way that pleases Him.
- The mind of the world contains vain imaginations, is reprobate and fleshly, perverse and corrupt and defiled (Rom. 1:21, 28; Eph. 4:17; Col. 2:18; 1 Tim. 6:5; Titus 1:15)

- 17. Just focusing on pushing out the things of the world isn't enough. That is just what religious systems say. Instead, you must focus on bringing in the things of God. That is just religion.
 - Instead, you must focus more and more on bringing in God's things and that will automatically result in other things being squeezed.
 - b. We must not focus on removing sin and what we are doing wrong. We focus on what God's righteousness and what He is doing right for and with us.
 - c. We are not to focus on our defeats. We focus on our victory in Christ. We are more than conquerors. (Rom. 8:37)
 - d. We are not to focus on ourselves and our sins, shortcomings and defeats but on Christ and His Glory and on God's righteousness, perfections and victory!

18. The proper order is this:

- a. We read and believe Paul's Scriptures—Pauline Grace Truth.
- b. Through them the Holy Spirit reveals and teaches God's truth for today about all that God is freely giving (Pauline Grace) and doing for us in Christ (1 Cor. 2:12) in the context of the Mystery Program (Eph. 3:3-5)
- c. This renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), renews the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4:20-24), which gives us the Mind of Christ, which operates in accord with Agape Love, doing away with the mind of the world and its things (Rom. 11:34 with 1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:1-8), serving others sacrificially unto their edification.

If we are thinking more and more about God and His things, because we are finite beings, we will automatically be thinking less and less about the world and its things.

- 19. Fleshly religious systems say first fix up your outer person through rites and rituals and clean up your yourselves then maybe God will save or do something with you.
- 20. God says the exact opposite. First let God re-create the inner person—the mind and the heart—with Pauline Grace Truth, and that will transform you outer activities from the inside out.
- 21. When believers living unto God (Rom. 6), walking according to the Spirit with living bodies (Rom. 8), offer up their bodies sacrificially for others based solely on the mercies of God through a minded created anew by God through His Word this will always show, prove, that God's way is superior to all other ways. It is the only good way (because He created it—Gen. 1) and the only acceptable way (because He generates it through Love—Rom. 5:1-11).