



A Renewed Mind Pt 1: The Need for a Biblical Worldview!

August 2, 2020

Primary Text: Romans 12:1-2

- What a year 2020 has been, full of so many difficulties, challenges, and in Christ...opportunities!
- Obviously, the focus for most people has been of COVID-19 and all the life changes that have resulted. But as we have been believing and declaring since the start:

Psalms 91:1-10 (KJV) *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

- Beloved, our God is good! He is awesome! Instead of focusing on possible pain...on the question, "What is going to happen?," I believe we must shift our focus.
- Here is the question we need to ask as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters: "What saith the LORD?"
- This is the question that brings peace, that cultivates unity and love, that invites the power of the Spirit of God to be manifest among us, that pleases our LORD!
- To ask this question is to utter the truest words of faith: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven!" (Matt 6:10)
- **It is the question of the called, the chosen, and the faithful (Rev 17:14), who engage in warfare with the accuser of the brethren who accuses them day and night (Rev 12:10). They defeat him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony! Why? Because "they loved not their lives unto death!" (Rev 12:11)**
- They were willing to submit to God; to surrender to God; to serve God with their full obedience. To overcome the enemy, we must do the same.
- We must learn the power of deadness to self in order to pursue God's will:
 - **Romans 6:11 (KJV)** *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - **Galatians 2:20 (KJV)** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
 - **Romans 8:8 (KJV)** *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

- **1 John 5:14 (KJV)** *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

- This question of “what saith the LORD” signifies the death to self required by all followers of Jesus and forms the basic grid of biblical way of thinking.
- Scripture calls this way of thinking the mind of Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Philippians 2:5-8 (KJV) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

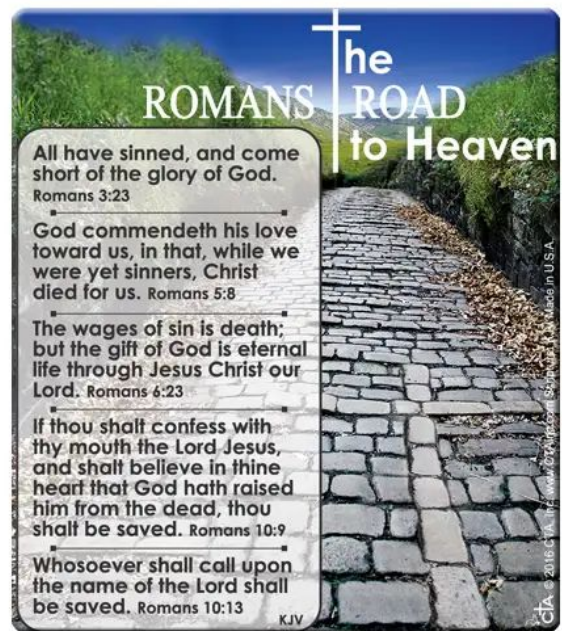
- We often call this way of thinking “**A Biblical Worldview.**” Such a worldview requires a transformed or renewed mind...

Exposition of Romans 12:1-2

1. Written around 56 AD, Romans was written by the Apostle Paul, most likely while he was in Corinth.
2. Romans is a theological masterpiece and held by many to be the greatest exposition of the Gospel in the NT. There is a reason the “Romans Road” is used often when presenting the Gospel to unbelievers.
3. On Romans, William MacDonald wrote:

Romans has always stood at the head of Paul's letters, and rightly so. Since Acts ends with Paul's arrival in Rome, it is logical to have the Epistle section of the NT begin with the apostle's letter to the Roman church, written before he visited the Christians there. More decisively, Romans is the most important book theologically in the whole NT, being as close to a systematic presentation of Christian theology as will be found in God's word.

Historically, Romans is the most influential of Bible books. Augustine was converted through reading [Rom 13:13-14](#) (a.d. 380). The Protestant Reformation was launched when Martin Luther finally understood the meaning of God's righteousness, and that “the just shall live by faith” (1517).



John Wesley received assurance of salvation through hearing the preface to Luther's commentary on Romans read in a Moravian house church on Aldersgate Street in London (1738). John Calvin wrote, "When anyone understands this Epistle, he has a passage opened to him to the understanding of the whole Scripture."

4. In fact, one can subdivide Romans this way— *Chapters 1-8: The Gospel Expounded, Chapters 9-11: The Gospel and Israel, and Chapters 12-16: The Gospel Lived out!*
5. This is where we find ourselves this morning. After a thorough explanation of the glory and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—God's overwhelming love and mercy toward us sinners—Paul exhorts the saved to live in such a manner!
6. In verse 1, we find an appeal to allow the **outer** man to be *transformed*.
 - Paul pleads with the Roman saints! (To "beseech:" to beg or entreat; to import with urgency, Webster 1828)
 - He's essentially saying, "Now, based on the goodness of God in Christ toward you, be changed in every way! Be renewed and transformed in both body and mind!"
 - He calls forth images of the OT in the mind of the hearer with words like "offer" and "sacrifice." One might be reminded of what it cost a worshipper during the Tabernacle/Temple periods to render to God acceptable worship. One also might remember the state the sacrifice had to be in: *holy and without blemish*.
 - This is the state of the believer; those who have been washed in Christ's blood! We are "positionally" holy and acceptable to God...in Christ!
 - This undeserved state should overwhelm us and cause gratitude to flow unhindered in the service of our God!
 - *Paul is admonishing and advocating for what should already be present in our hearts: a desire to give ourselves fully to our LORD's worship!*
 - In fact, it is our "reasonable service." In other words, it's the least we can do considering what we have been given!
 - MacArthur writes, "Reasonable" is from the Greek word for "logic." In light of all the spiritual riches believers enjoy solely as the fruit of God's mercies ([Rom 11:33](#), [Rom 11:36](#)), it logically follows that they owe God their highest form of service. Understood here is the idea of priestly, spiritual service, which was such an integral part of OT worship."
7. In verse 2, we see the focus shift to the **inner** man....an appeal to allow the inner man to be *transformed*.
 - The first admonition here is a warning and command to NOT be conformed to the world.
 - The word for world is *aiōn* in Greek. The "world" or "age" (*aiōn* and *kosmos* are common in the NT) in this context might be defined as "a satanically inspired **system** of ideologies, philosophies, governments, and jurisdictions that fights against our LORD." (Previously defined in the message: "Worldisms" from James 4:4, Oct, 2015.)
 - Believers are NEVER to "conform" or "fashion themselves according to the pattern" of the world! (Strong's for *conformed: suschēmatisō*)
 - Why? Because "all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:16)
 - What worldviews are in the world? So many false ones...all the terrible "isms!"

- Atheism (There is no god)
 - Humanism (The idea that man is good or that man is his own god)
 - Feminism (In modern terms, the idea that there should be NO distinctions between male and female)
 - Transgenderism (and other forms of sexual deviancy like homosexuality)
 - Pragmatism (Whatever “works,” do it. The end justifies the means.)
 - Intellectualism (Knowledge and truth can only be derived from reason...from what man can prove)
 - Consumerism (The preoccupation with the acquisition of goods; an obvious form of idolatry)
 - Racism (One “race”—wrong word—is superior to another)
 - Exhibitionism (the desire to attract attention to oneself)
 - Socialism/Marxism/Communism/Fascism (In simple terms, the deification of the State)
8. Rather, the believer is called to a Biblical Worldview: to be transformed (metamorphoō) by the renewing of their minds!
9. This, in the power of the Holy Spirit, enables the follower of Christ to very often discern the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God! This was Jesus’ heart towards the Father:

"The Son can do nothing of Himself" (John 5: 19).

"I can of My own self do nothing; My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will" (John 5:30).

"I receive not glory from men" (John 5: 41).

"I am come not to do My own will" (John 6:38).

"My teaching is not Mine" (John 7:16)

"I am not come of Myself" (John 7:28)

"I do nothing of Myself" (John 8:28)

"I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me" (John 8: 42).

"I seek not My own glory" (John 8:50)

"The words that I say, I speak not from Myself" (John 14: 10).

"The word which you hear is not Mine" (John 14: 24)

Biblical Worldview Definitions

- A grid or set of “glasses” through which one sees the world.
- Any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man’s relations to God and the world.
- **In simplest terms, a worldview is a set of beliefs about the most important issues in life.**
- **Therefore, a Biblical worldview is the ability to think Biblically about the most important issues in life.**

The Elements of a Worldview

View of **God**: Atheism or Theism?

View of **Man**: Evolution or Special Creation? Imago Dei?

View of **Scripture**: Insufficient or Sufficient?

View of **Truth**: Relative or Absolute?
View of **Ethics**: Cultural or Absolute?

Other areas:

Politics: How we govern
Economics: How we prosper
Education: How and what we learn, and from who
Social Issues: How we relate and view life

The Battle for the Mind (A very quick review. For more, see:
<https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2016/12/exploring-gods-love-through-the-bible-jesus-healer-of-our-hearts-and-minds>)

1. The mind (or heart...the inner man) controls **action**.
***Pro 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*

***Mar 7:20** And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*
***Mar 7:21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*
***Mar 7:22** Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*
***Mar 7:23** All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

***Jas 1:13** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*
***Jas 1:14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*
***Jas 1:15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
2. Our hearts and minds are already prone to **wickedness**.
***Gen 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

***Jer 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
***Jer 17:10** I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*
3. The enemy knows this, and often attacks this “inner man” with deception. Deception happens in the **mind**!
***2Co 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

***Joh 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Rev 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

- This is the nature of temptation. Through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1Jn 2:16), Satan (and demonic powers) whispers his lies to us.
- He cannot take control of our bodies as Christians, but he'll use our weaknesses against us.
- **When our bodies desire to sin, our minds must agree! Therein rages the battle!**

4. This is why Scripture prescribes a constant guarding of and **renewal** of the mind:
Pro 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

2Co 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

2Co 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

2Co 10:5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

How to have a Renewed Mind

1. Be saved and filled with God's Spirit!

- **Acts 2:38-40 (KJV)** *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*
- **1 John 2:20 (KJV)** *But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

2. Read, listen to, and study Scripture!

- **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

3. Humble yourself continually before the Word.

- **James 1:21 (KJV)** *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

4. Pray for wisdom!

- **James 1:5 (KJV)** *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

5. Vet all of life through Scripture!

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
- **2 Peter 1:3 (KJV)** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

May the LORD give us victory in the sourish realm and help us think according to His Word!