

RENEWING OUR MINDS - ROM. 12:2

Introduction

- A. Text: **Rom. 12:2**.
- B. Our quality of *life* is determined by the quality of our *thinking*.
- C. We can drastically *change ourselves* by *changing our minds*.
- D. The *truth of God* is the most powerful force for positive change in the world — but one must *choose* to be influenced by it.
- E. Christians are described as those “who were once *enlightened*” (**Hb. 6:4**).
- F. But even after obeying the gospel, we are challenged to “renew” our minds continually - **Rom. 12:2**.

I. CONFORMED VS. TRANSFORMED

- A. “Conformed” to the world is what the Christian will be if he does nothing — being “transformed” requires *conscious action* that produces a *change*.
- B. Conformity to the world is *the course of least resistance*.
- C. Most of us are probably more conformed to the world than we realize or are willing to admit.
- D. We need to set ourselves the goal of *transformation* to the Lord’s way of thinking!

II. THE CHRISTIAN’S TRANSFORMATION IS THE RESULT OF A “RENEWED” MIND

- A. There must be a radical *inward change* in a person in order to live godly in this world.
- B. The “mind” = intellect + emotions + will. Each of these must be placed under the influence of the truth.
- C. “Spiritual-mindedness” (as opposed to “carnal-mindedness”) is our goal.
 - 1. **Rom. 8:5-11**.
 - 2. **Eph. 4:17-24** (esp. **v.23**).
 - 3. **1 Jn. 2:15-17**.
- D. The Christian no longer views things and appraises them “according to the flesh” (**2 Cor. 5:16**).

III. THE RESULT: “PROVING” WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD

- A. “Prove” = *dokimazo* = to scrutinize or test something to see if it is genuine > to approve as genuine upon trial, to judge worthy.
- B. The carnal-minded person is a poor judge between right and wrong actions - **Eph. 5:8-10,17**.
 - 1. Cf. **Jn. 7:17**; **1 Cor. 3:1-3**; **Hb. 5:11-14**; **2 Pt. 3:16**.
 - 2. As an analogy, consider a person who dislikes music trying to judge the better of two compositions.
- C. The person who has been transformed by the renewing of his mind is not only better able to discern

what is God's will, he can more properly appraise the excellence of it, etc. Cf. **Rom. 2:18**; **Phil. 1:10**.

D. *Theorizing alone will not give one the answers he needs concerning God's will.*

1. The person with the renewed mind learns much by *actual experience* in the living out of God's truth - **1 Pt. 2:3**.
2. Cf. **Job. 42:5**.

E. The Christian's life is a *demonstration* of the truth, practicality, and excellence of God's will — his life is Exhibit A that God's truth "works."

Conclusion

A. The renewal of the Christian's mind is *a continual, daily process*.

B. Transformations are *difficult*, and sometimes *painful*.

1. The more the world is ingrained in us, the more difficult the change will be.
2. But to stay in our "comfort zone" is to be lost.

C. What we are after, essentially, is the "mind of Christ." Cf. **Phil. 2:5**.

D. May our *treasures* be in heaven, that our *hearts* may be there also - **Mt. 6:21**.

E. May we set our affections on things above - **Col. 3:2**.