

# **THE RENEWED MIND BY THE WORK OF GOD**

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Today I am going to talk about the renewal of the mind and the new mindset that God has brought for us. The first thing that I want to mention is that understanding the renewal of the mind where the Bible says, in *Romans 12:2* ***And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...***

What that verse does NOT mean is the following: It does not mean to be transformed by thinking positively. We should not confuse positive confession and positive thinking with a renewed mind. You can go to the Buddhist and the New Agers and the whatever. They think positive! They meditate and they say, "Christ in me" and the New Age says, "Christ in all," and we just think of peace and tranquility and equality and we put ourselves in a trance. We think positive and we think good and whatever." That is not the renewal of the mind that the Apostle Paul was talking about when he wrote that.

The renewed mind is not to say, "I am the healed and I am not the sick!" That is not the renewed mind! The renewed mind is something completely different. It is a different logic. It is a different way of reasoning that we are going to have a look at here. .

I want to just lay a little bit of background on what is going on.

***Romans 11:1*** ***I say then, Has God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.***

**What the Apostle Paul does here is he is addressing a completely wrong belief!** He is addressing the Judaism System that got born into the Gentiles. That is what he is addressing and very few people see that but that is what he is busy with and that is the context of the renewed mind here.

Let me explain that. The Gentiles started to say, "Well, we are very special as Gentiles because God rejected the Jews to love us." That's what they would say. They were saying, " We are more special than the Jews to God. The Jews thought that they are the people of God, but we are the people of God." It's almost like you would have a girlfriend and you would leave her for another one and the other one says, "Well, I must be better because if he left her for me, I must be better!" The Jews were always living with, "We are better because God accepted us and made us His people and not them." Then when God ended the Law System by which the Jews lived, the Jews experienced that as a rejection and as a casting away of the people of God. That's how it was seen but it wasn't a casting away at all. It was actually the acceptance of ALL people.

Then the Gentiles came and said, "Well, what God has done is He showed us mercy. We, without the Law, obtained the mercy of God. We, who weren't even seeking after God, (talking about seeking after God by trying to obey the Law), we received mercy. Here God comes and He pours out His Holy Spirit on us! We just trust Him and we believe Him and look at what He is doing! We are more special!"

Do you see how their faith is now moved over into trusting and relying on the flesh saying, “We are chosen because of our ethnicity.”? Do you see that? It was the same thing that was in the Jews.

Then Paul goes on in chapter 11 and he explains to them that God took people, to whom the oracles of God and the commandments of God were given, and what He did was, by these laws they could not attain unto life and then He said, “Let Me be merciful on those who are not even trying to obey the Law.” He was actually merciful upon all people but those who didn't have the Law believed Him and they saw the life of God manifest in them. Now, what God was doing is He said, “If I am going to take away the Law, as a way by which you live, by fulfilling it in Christ, and blessing the other nations.” By doing that, the Jews would say, “God is showing mercy on the Gentiles! What's going on?”

But God said that by showing mercy to the Gentiles, He was actually showing these people that without the Law you can be blessed and without being obedient, you can be blessed. Without being obedient to commandments you can be seen as righteous and have eternal life. By being merciful to them He is now actually bringing mercy to these people as well by demonstrating the very same mercy. That is called the mercies of God where God shows mercy to the Jew and Gentile for God declared both, Jew and Gentile, sinners, that He can show mercy to sinners and if He can show mercy to sinners He can save all... Jew and Gentile.

I don't have time to go into all of that but it is a little bit of background and I hope, if your mind is quick, you will just grab a hold of that.

Last week we spoke about being born again. Nicodemus couldn't understand what Jesus was actually saying because he was born from the Law and Jesus was born from the Spirit. If we have different logics, it is very difficult for people, who come from a different logic or a different mindset, to really understand one another. They cannot understand one another. It's like if you take a Republican and a Democrat and you want them to understand each other, it is impossible. It is impossible because they have different mindsets. They have different ways of looking at something. Because they have a different logic, everyone interprets what the other one says inside his logic and it doesn't make sense to him. If something doesn't make sense how can you flow with it? It's just impossible.

Let's use democracy and communism. Somebody who is a Communist is a person who believes you should have everything in common and that everything belongs to all people. If that is his logic, if that is the foundation from where he reasons, he would see that it is a righteous thing to take a rich man's stuff and distribute it among everybody. The million dollars, that a rich man had, would be distributed among the people and now each person would have ten dollars. To him, that is righteous. He thinks there is absolutely nothing wrong with it. As a matter of fact it is a sin and it is wrong, in his eyes and in the depth of his being, to see one man being a millionaire.

If you come with somebody who has a different mindset, a capitalist, he will say, “Well, if somebody has nothing and he is dying and he hasn't worked for it and somebody wants to give to him, he can. But if he doesn't want to, he owes him nothing. He owes him nothing and if he dies, without this guy not giving, you can just say that the guy who doesn't want to give is a bit stingy but he won't ever be seen as wrong, as sin, because it are different logics.

If you take somebody from the Communist camp and take somebody from the other camp, and you want this man to explain to you how to grow a nation, the other one will not understand any of his plans. He will not know what is going on.

What I want to say to that example is that since the logics differ, whatever the one says will not be logical or make sense to the other one. It will be very difficult for the one to see the true intent of the other person or the heart of the other person. You can find a person whose heart is really so pure and he can be a Communist saying, "I just want all people to be blessed!" It's a pure heart but the guy who is just into making money for himself will never, ever, ever, be able to see that pure heart!

And the guy who is into the money thing, he wants to make money and he actually believes that he is providing a system here where each person can live according to his own potential and everyone just doesn't have to have a little bit but we can become rich. He can have the purest of motives in that but these people will never see the beauty in each other because of different logic.

Now, imagine this: Imagine the logic of God differs from yours. How in the world are you going to see Him for who He truly is? It will be impossible! What if the logic that we have has been polluted by a logic that is not in line with the logic of God and God comes with His logic and says, "You sit and you rest and you allow Me. I will be good to you and as I am good to you, you'll find that the very beauty you behold in Me will be effortlessly born in you! Then it will just be logical for you, if I work in you, by My love, to will and to do, it will just be logical for you to go and do whatever you want!"

Listen, I can hear even some people, as you listen to this, if I say to you, "This is God's logic: God wants people to do whatever they want!" You will say, "That's crazy!" The Law mind will not understand that. He will not hear that. He will say, "This is a license to sin! How can you tell somebody to do whatever he wants!"

Now, if your logic is that the human heart is evil and you must just resist sin every day, and God is outside and He empowers you with a commandment and if you can obey His commandment, He will bless you with life. If that is your mindset and I tell you, "God works in you to will and to do. Go and do whatever you want!", you will say, "That man has smoked something and he drinks too much before the Service!" That's what you will say because it will not make sense! To the guy who believes that it just makes sense if you sit under the love of somebody, and that love is the eternal love of God, that has no beginning, has no end, has no dimensions, it is all consuming, it is life giving, if you are sitting under that love, it just makes sense to do whatever you want because if I don't do whatever I want, I will be against the life of God in me for God works in me to want generosity, to want kindness, and not just to want but to will and to do! He just doesn't put the want there. He actually manifests it in you by His Spirit. Now it makes sense to do whatever you want.

Paul comes and he uses this reason in **Romans 12**. I am going to try to explain to you the mindset from where Paul was teaching. He said in the first verse, ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***

The way the Law logic reads this is, in an authoritative voice while pointing its finger in your face, "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you, for a change, present your body as holy and blameless and above reproach and as acceptable to God BY LIVING WELL!" That simply is not what is written there! The logic of Law always reads any correction as "the pointing of the finger", and as "You have been in the wrong and there is always a death sentence hanging over the correction! That is not the case in **Romans 12!** ***"I beseech you therefore...."***

That word, beseech, is parakaleo, where we also get the word, parakletos, which talks about the one called along side to help, the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Beseech also means to call near, to help.

Paul says, "I want to help you, Brethren! I want to help you. I beseech you. I come alongside you." He says, "I beseech you therefore..." What is the word, therefore, there for? He was talking about the mercies of God shown to Jew and Gentile and he said, "Because God is merciful to Jew and Gentile and not just to the one, I see that you are falling back into the mindset where you are sitting in a place where you start to think fleshly. You start to think about God choosing this nation above that nation." He says, "Let me help you. Let me come as the parakletos, as the one called alongside to help. Let me come and parakaleo you." It literally means, to call near, to invite or to invoke; a conciliation, to call, to be good to, to comfort.

He says, "Let me comfort you by the mercies of God. Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God..." Let's say that these notes or this book is my body and I want to present my body to you. I present my body like a presenter. Do you know what a presenter does? He presents things. He's there working at the TV show and he is a presenter. He presents people. So, be a presenter and present your body as holy. It's a living sacrifice acceptable unto God.

So I come and I present my body. If I have to introduce my body, I would say, "This body is alive given over to God. God took human flesh and put it on the right hand of the Father. This is given to God. It is holy. It is acceptable to God!" In doing that, presenting your body like that, the Bible says that is your **reasonable service**. It's only reasonable to think of your body that way and to think of your life that way in the presence of the flowing of the blood of the Lamb of God that washed away the sin of the whole world. Any other thinking wouldn't be reasonable! It's unreasonable. There is no reason, there is no logic in that.

Do you see the reasoning of God? God said, "I take away the sin of all people. I unite them with God in Christ and as I do all these things, you can go and present your body as holy and blameless and acceptable and a living sacrifice, be alive. This body is given available to God, a living sacrifice where God can come and manifest all of His fruit, and it is holy and acceptable---- that is just reasonable! It's not reasonable to say that I am just a rotten sinner! To the guy who is in the Law, to him it makes sense. That is what these Gentiles began to think of the Jews and that was exactly what the Jews were thinking of the Gentiles.

The worst thing that can happen to a person is if you amalgamate, join together, if you make these two logics one and now you have this concoction of both logics together. That's the worst thing ever that can take place because if someone would come to you with good news, you will say!, "I understand a little about that but I also believe this." You will never come to a place where can actually experience the life that God has intended for you.

So Paul comes and he says, "Brethren, let me call you close by, let me help you. The platform that I want to help you is the mercies of God." Let's read it again. ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***

***I beseech you***, I come along side to help you, let me help you on account of His mercies, brethren, by these mercies present yourself as holy. Don't see yourself as .rejected. Don't see yourself, or any nation, as rejected. We are all accepted!

I want to say this to you who love the Jews as a special people of God. By the very mercies of God, I want to help you! What you are busy with will destroy your life! I want to tell you to say that the Jew is more special to God, you are living by a logic that makes no sense to God. "By the mercies of God I beseech you present your body.... and not just your body, present the body of Christ, present the body as holy, acceptable, before God, a living sacrifice. See it that way. Don't make your body unholy and see yourself as unholy by allowing the logic of the world.

**:2 *And be not conformed to this world...*** In other words, don't have your life in line with the way the world is. The way that we see the world is a man who drinks a beer, smokes a cigarette or drives too fast, or has some sin. That is not the context of the world. The world system that he was talking about here was the hierarchy system where nations were preferred before each other. He says, "Don't be conformed to the world and also to the Jewish world of that time where people were thinking that one nation is above another nation. Where they didn't see the mercy of God and where they couldn't see all people are sinners and God had taken away the sin of all and He brings forgiveness for all, He brings righteousness for all. He brings redemption, justification for all. That is what he is saying. It is for ALL so don't come to a place where you are not conformed to this world. What he also means there is if you want a life that looks like the life of the world, continue in this evil logic... you will be conformed to the world! You will steal. You will kill. You will destroy. You will do all these things. You will be conformed to the world if you continue in a life that is outside of the logic of God. Amen!

**:2 *...but be ye transformed*** (changed from the inside out) ***by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove*** (actually to show forth, or demonstrate) ***what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

**:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly,*** (Don't be intoxicated with wrong thoughts) ***according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.***

Let me explain that. When we say that something is renewed, the renewal of the mind, this is what I believe this is talking about. It doesn't say that we receive a new mind. It says that the mind is renewed or made in accordance to when it was new.

If I take a car and renew the car, it does not mean that I have replaced the car. It means that I restore it back to the original new that it was. If you watch a TV program where they restore old cars, they are renewing the cars. The car, over time, collected, dust, dents, scratches, rust and all those kind of things and you can see that it is a car but the car wasn't new anymore. The only way that you could renew the car is not by buying another car but by taking that car and restoring it to the original.

So when we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, it means we will be transformed, meaning we will not be in the life of the world where we have the fruit of the flesh or any of those things anymore. Should it be that we can get our mind back to the original thought, renew your mind.

How was this mind renewed? How does a new mind come? When Adam listened to the devil, his mind got polluted by the thought that he can take all the good that God has given him in his life and produce an everlasting life by doing good. Let me explain that. Adam was in the Garden and he saw that he was kind and he was love and he was good and all those kind of things and then the devil came to him and said, "Do you know what? You can be like God by knowing the good and evil (evil means hard work), working the good that you see and if you work the good, if you work the ability that God has given you, guess what? You'll be just like God! You will be immortal. You will have immortality!"

From that perspective, when Adam started to believe that, his mind got polluted. He wasn't speaking soberly anymore. A sober thought is the following thought: God loves me and He gives me His life for free! That's a sober thought and by His love we find God's attributes manifest in our lives. As the attributes manifest in our lives, it is wonderful and in that we are sharing in the quality of life.

A sickening thought would be to say that if I just live these attributes and have a lot of it in my life, then I will be able to have immortality by my good works! That is sickening! That is what we call, "not sober" thinking, intoxicated thinking.

Imagine you start there and then after awhile you do good things. And you work hard and you see that you are not making it because it is not logical for a person who is taken from dust, to use dust's ability to be immortal. Dust can never produce immortality! Inside God's logic, that is simple! Outside of God's logic, it is impossible to comprehend. Jesus said that Satan is the murderer of man. So this wrong logic is going to bring forth so much death and destruction.

When we go to this verse, and we look at this logic, we find that the logic that God has brought to us is a logic that is different from the world's logic where we will not accuse God because God's logic is a family logic. That's what it is! God's logic is a family logic. He has a logic that reasons: I take man. I put man inside My boat. When man is inside My boat, he's part of My family. I care for him. I bless him. I give him eternal life. I will love him unto him loving others." That's the logic of God. That logic got mud thrown over it over the years and then God said, "Let Me renew the way man thinks." The way that God renewed the way we think is by taking a man and putting him at the right hand of the Father, a human being, so that we can now see that and have the original thought, a renewed mind. I'm holy. I'm blameless. I'm acceptable to God. I'm part of the God family. Immortality belongs to me. The doing of God will raise me from the grave even if I die. That is the renewal of the mind! That is the true renewal of the mind!

He says, "Don't think of yourself higher than what you ought to think. Adam thought of himself higher than what he ought to think. When do you think higher of yourself? It is when you think that you can create a good life by you obeying commands. You can't! Think soberly! To each man has been given the measure of faith. We have not been given commandments! We have been given something to believe! That is the command! And if we can believe that truth, if we can see that truth and believe upon it, then we will find our hearts come to a place where we are living the fruit of God by **His** doing. Glory to God!

Church, thank you so much for listening to this message! I am sure that it has impacted your life. Let us be transformed by the new mind that God brought in the manifestation of Christ in putting a man at the right hand of God where we can think soberly. It's a sobering thought and it is a sober thought to think that man is in equality with God, that man has no sin, that his sin has been taken away, that we are righteous. It is sober. Any other thought is intoxicated with lies. Church, you are deeply loved by God! Thank you for watching this and I know that you will just be greatly blessed by Him in this week to come and in the rest of your life.