

# THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION

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**TEXT: Romans 12:1-2**

## INTRODUCTION

1. In **Romans 12:1-2**, Paul makes a plea regarding transforming our lives.
2. As we consider this text, several questions come to mind...
  - a. What does it mean to be transformed?
  - b. What is the goal of transformation?
  - c. What should motivate us to undergo transformation?
  - d. What is the process of transformation?

## I. THE DEFINITION OF TRANSFORMATION

- A. The Greek meaning for transformation is "to change into another form."
- B. It comes from the word "metamorphosis" used to describe a change of form, such as when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.
- C. In the NT, this word is used to describe what happened to Jesus on the Mount of transfiguration – **Matthew 17:1-2**.
- D. It describes what is to happen to Christians in their service to God. There is to be a Transformation when we give our lives to the Lord.
- E. The concept being commanded by Paul is that Christians are to undergo a complete change in character and conduct.
- F. We who are "caterpillars" are to become "butterflies."
- F. This is something we allow to be done to us, not something we do by our own power alone.
- G. Rather, we submit to God's power and by His grace we are changed into another form. We become a new creation - **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

## II. THE GOAL OF TRANSFORMATION

- A. To become like Christ as expressed by Paul in **2 Corinthians 3:18**.
- B. The purpose of being a disciple of Christ is to become like Him.
- C. The goal of Christian living is to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God that we may prove that God's will is good, acceptable, and perfect.
- D. This is what Jesus sought to do here on earth. - **John 6:38**.
- E. The goal of being transformed and becoming a Christian is to be like Jesus.

## III. THE MOTIVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

- A. The motivation is the mercies of God.
- B. In our text, Paul appealed to our transformation based on God's mercies.
  - a. Freedom from sin.
  - b. The gift of eternal life.
  - c. Peace with God.
  - d. Access to the grace of God.
  - e. Saved from the wrath of God.

- C. Paul also revealed the motivating power to be the love of Christ - **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**.
- D. Such love compelled Paul to live for Jesus - **Galatians 2:20**.
- E. We are either conformed to this world or transformed to be like Christ.

#### IV. THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

- A. Remember, we cannot change ourselves by our own strength or works.
- B. We must submit to God's working on us.
- C. It begins when we are baptized into Christ.
  - a. **Colossians 2:11-13**.
  - b. **Titus 3:5**.
  - c. **Romans 6:3-8**.
- D. After we are saved the process of transformation continues as we renew the mind.
  - a. **Romans 12:2**.
  - b. **Ephesians 4:20-24**.
  - c. Unless there is a renewing of the mind, any change in our lives will be superficial.
- E. Renewing the mind is made possible by setting our minds and affections:
  - a. On things above - **Colossians 3:1-2**.
  - b. Setting our minds on the things of the Spirit - **Romans 8:5**.
  - c. By feeding our minds with the Word of God, prayer, fellowship - **Acts 2:42**.
  - d. We become what we think.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Now the question is, why do many Christians remain caterpillars?
2. The problem is most likely a failure to renew their mind.
  - a. A mind cannot be renewed on a starvation diet that consist of irregular Bible study.
  - b. A mind cannot be renewed on a junk-food diet that consist of trashy movies and books.
3. The reason many Christians do not experience transformation is because they become what they see and think upon.
4. They spend more time watching things of the devil than reading things of the Spirit.
5. Our attitudes and behavior is but a reflection of what goes into our minds.
6. Some Christians need brain surgery by the Great Physician.
7. God's wants to give us a complete "make over."
8. We have been called to be "transformed" into the image of Christ.