

## QUESTIONS

- 1) List the 'gifts' Paul mentions in chapter 12, and how to use them

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- 2) Summarize what Paul says the Christian's responsibility to the government is and why in Romans 13:

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- 3) Explain why "grieving" a brother or sister over a liberty such as food is such a severe problem (15:13-15) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 4) Which prophet said, "There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope."? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) What country/region was Paul hoping to travel to by way of Rome? \_\_\_\_\_

- 6) What should Christians do to those that cause divisions? \_\_\_\_\_



## The Transformed Life

After Paul calls Christian's to be living sacrifices, he says, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*" As Christians, we should be different than the world. We should act different, speak different, and in some ways even look different! We often prefer to blend in with the crowd, but conformity is not the path of Christianity. Instead of conforming, Paul tells us to "be transformed." The Greek word Paul uses is **metamorphoo**. We don't have to know Greek to recognize that word probably. It is the word from which we get our English word "metamorphosis." The change in a Christian from their previous life should be as drastic as the change of a caterpillar to a butterfly! As we crucify the old man of sin and are raised to newness of life (remember chapter 6), we become radically different. We are transformed! That process of change begins in the very way we think, thus, "*the renewal of the mind.*" Instead of thinking of our own interests, our minds are focused on God and His will. If that's the case, our actions, words, and entire lives will take a new shape. Such a transformation will impact our relationships with other Christians, even when we disagree (Rom. 12 and 14). It will impact how we serve the governments we live under (13), and the work we do in Christ (15-16). Here's some questions to ponder: how different is your life from what it used to be? How different is your life than the lives of worldly people? What is your relationship with other Christians like? Have you conformed, or have you been transformed?



# "That You May Grow Thereby..."

*A weekly Bible reading plan*



## Romans 9-16 Renewed and Transformed

### Overview

Last week we read through the first half of Romans. In those first eight chapters, Paul discussed some deep but important doctrinal truths about sin, God's plan and purpose, and the importance of faith. In the latter half of the letter to the Romans, Paul builds on this foundation. Paul discusses the interwoven community in Christ that consists of both Jews and Gentiles, and provides instruction to both concerning their attitudes towards one another and their actions as Christians. Paul then focuses on the practical applicability of what he has written. Essentially, he shows just what it means for the "just to live by faith." While parts of Romans may be difficult, there are plenty of passages that provide wonderfully clear instruction. For these sections (such as chapter 12) the difficulty is not in understanding, but in disciplining ourselves to obey and follow what we read. If we will obey these words, however, we are sure to find a transformation in our lives, our families, and our congregations.

### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Romans 9-10

Tuesday: Romans 11

Wednesday: Romans 12

Thursday: Romans 13-14

Friday: Romans 15-16

Even a cursory read-through of the Old Testament will reveal that sacrifices were a major component for both the Patriarchs and the Jews living under the Law of Moses. While animal sacrifices have been done away with under the New Covenant, the concept of sacrifice has not disappeared. On the contrary, sacrifice is a very real part of the Christian's life! Paul encourages Christians to present themselves as "living sacrifices." What is that? First, it is a holy life; one dedicated to obeying God instead of indulging self. Further it is a life of service—service to God and to His people. It is a life where we use our time, talent, and treasure not for self, but for God. Are our lives "living sacrifices?" If not, what can we do to make them such?



*A Living Sacrifice*

### Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 is an excellent memory verse! Why not try to memorize this Scripture this week?

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

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