

How to be Totally Devoted to Christ Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 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.

2 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.

Introduction

Arthur Fletcher, the former head of the United Negro College Fund, coined the well-known phrase, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." The campaign using the slogan was launched in earnest in 1972. It has helped raise more than \$2.2 billion and helped more than 350,000 minority students graduate from college.

Although, I agree with the need to educate our minds and I am in full support of helping people get a better education, I would take a different approach.

There are a couple of things I agree with regarding this popular and often repeated phrase.

1. First I would agree that “ The mind is a terrible thing”.
2. Second, It should not be wasted,

But we need much more than education.... We need transformation....

Educating a sinfully depraved minded. Gives you a mind that knows a lot of stuff and is able to do things. But that is not enough.

A lot of very smart people have lived and died who had very educated minds, but never a transformed mind.

A good example of an educated mind that was never transformed is that of Albert Einstein,

Einstein was raised by secular Jewish parents and attended a local [Catholic](#) public elementary school in [Munich](#).^[13] In his *Autobiographical Notes*, Einstein wrote that he had gradually lost his faith early in childhood:

... I came—though the child of entirely irreligious (Jewish) parents—to a deep religiousness, which, however, reached an abrupt end at the age of twelve.

Through the reading of popular scientific books I soon reached the conviction that much in the stories of the [Bible](#) could not be true.

[Albert Einstein](#) himself stated "I'm not an atheist, and I don't think I can call myself a [pantheist](#) ... I believe in a god who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with fates and actions of human beings"

Einstein expressed his [skepticism](#) regarding the existence of an [anthropomorphic](#) god, such as the [God of Abrahamic religions](#), often describing this view as "naïve"^[3] and "childlike".^[15] In a 1947 letter he stated that "It seems to me that the idea of a personal God is an anthropological concept which I cannot take seriously."^[16] In a letter to Beatrice Frohlich on 17 December 1952, Einstein stated, "The idea of a personal God is quite alien to me and seems even naïve."^[17]

Prompted by his colleague [L. E. J. Brouwer](#), Einstein read the philosopher [Eric Gutkind](#)'s book *Choose Life*,^[18] a discussion of the relationship between Jewish revelation and the modern world. On January 3, 1954, Einstein sent the following reply to Gutkind: "The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of

honorable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. For me the Jewish religion like all other religions is an incarnation of the most childish superstitions.

I think that all of us now understand more than ever that what the mind thinks is indeed the most important thing about us.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

Matthew 15:19 (NASB95)

19 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

We have seen in the last few decades the disintegration of our culture directly due to the way men think.

You cannot remove God and His Word from the homes and schools and universities of America and expect good things.

The only restraint that was in place to stop the mind of man from descending down the slippery slope of debauchery has now been removed and a

full scale assault has been brought on to the way we think about the basics of life.

Nothing is now out of bounds or forbidden because now the mind has been given freedom to think and do as it wills within the scope of its depravity.

Think about it this way.

Because our society, our country as a whole has abandoned God, God has abandoned this country and turned it over to depraved minds.

Romans 1:21-32

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile** in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ματαιόω *mataiōō*; contracted *mataiṓ*, fut. *mataiṓsō*, from *mátaios* (3152), vain. To make vain or worthless, to cancel out. In the pass. *mataiṓomai*, to become vain, destitute of real wisdom (Rom. 1:21), to be or act perversely, foolish. In reality, to get off the right path, to follow foolish or bad courses (Sept.:

1 Sam. 13:13; 26:21; 2 Kgs. 17:15; Jer. 2:5).

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

μωραίνω *moraínō*; fut. *mōranṓ*, from *mōrós* (3474), foolish. To make dull, not acute, to cause something to lose its taste or the purpose for which it exists, e.g., salt not being able to make things salty (Matt. 5:13; Luke 14:34). Used of the mind meaning to make foolish or to show to be foolish (1 Cor. 1:20); in the pass. (Rom. 1:22, meaning they became foolish or acted like fools; see Sept.: 2 Sam. 24:10; Is. 19:11).

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

- 23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
- 24** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,
- 25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- 26** For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.
- 27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
- 28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

και καθως ουκ **εδοκιμασαν** τον θεον εχειν εν επιγνωσει παρεδωκεν αυτους ο θεος εις **αδοκιμον** νουν ποιειν τα μη καθηκοντα

- 29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,
- 30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
- 31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

[*The New King James Version*](#) (Ro 1:21–32). (1982). Thomas Nelson.

These depraved minds, lead our county into all forms of immorality and sinful and absurd ways of thinkings.

They are knowingly or unknowingly destroying the basic foundations of a society and a country,

Our children are being educated in schools that work hard at dismantling our faith and support ideologies and belief systems that are AntiChrist.

Consider how far our major universities as drifted.

Harvard and Yale and Princeton, used to be places there pastors and theologians were educated in the Scriptures, now they are havens of Atheism and false religions.

I read this week about the monies that are given to our universities from foreign countries.

“Gifts” for American universities from foreign countries since 2012:



Source: US Department of Education

Qatar gave more than double the next major national donor (China) to American universities over the last decade. They also "donate" to NYC public schools.

The same Qatar that hosts Hamas leadership and Al-Jazeera media.

Do we really think that the only reason they give money is because they just want to help the poor Universities in America.

Hitler, knew if you gain the youth, you conquer the world. So does the devil.
Get their minds early and you get them.

So what we need is not more educated minds, we need transformed minds. Minds that are infiltrated and infected with the Word of God. So thoroughly Bible that the devil or the corrupt society and culture has no beachhead or stronghold to influence us or our children.

Did you know that **Romans 12:2** is regularly one of the most shared Bible verses across the entire internet?

If you have been familiar with Dr. R.C. Sproul's ministry for some time, it wouldn't surprise you to learn that **Romans 12:2** is a frequently discussed verse at Ligonier as we think through new ways to serve Christians who are pursuing renewed minds. When he named Ligonier's daily radio broadcast in 1994, Dr. Sproul turned to **Romans 12:2** to describe the broadcast's purpose: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." From this verse, our farthest-reaching ministry initiative, *Renewing Your Mind*, was launched. Dr. Sproul explains:

God gives us the revelation of sacred Scripture in order for us to have our minds changed so we begin to think like Jesus. Sanctification and spiritual growth [are] all about this. If you just have it in your mind and you don't have it in your heart, you don't have it. But you can't have it in your heart without first having it in your mind. We want to have a mind informed by the Word of God.

In another exhortation from his classic book, *The Holiness of God*, Dr. Sproul wrote:

The key method Paul underscores as the means to the transformed life is by the "renewal of the mind." This means nothing more and nothing less than

education. Serious education. In-depth education. Disciplined education in the things of God. It calls for a mastery of the Word of God. We need to be people whose lives have changed because our minds have changed.

There can be a temptation for some Christians to take a verse like **Romans 12:2** and turn it into a “Just Do It” Nike-style battle cry of transformational sanctification divorced from the previous eleven chapters penned by the Apostle Paul. Yet the imperative of **Romans 12:2** flows from the “mercies of God” outlined in **Romans 3:21–12:1**. This undeserved favor for redeemed sinners, given through the grace of God in Christ, provokes an outpouring of gratitude and a life of joyful duty.

Romans 12:2 is a vital hinge on the door of biblical truth. On one side, we have the breathtaking vista of doxology found in **Romans 11:36**: “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” On the other side of the door, in **Romans 12:3–21**, we have flesh-and-blood illustrations of godliness. The character of the Christian is marked by kingdom-minded, humble service. The triumphant indicative of the gospel leads to new life marked by a new pursuit for the mind of Christ (**2 Cor. 4:4**; **Col. 1:15**). Merely

imparting information to a human mind is insufficient. From interactions with the most learned scholars of his day in Israel and Greece—and even from reflecting on his own life before conversion—Paul knew that knowledge divorced from love puffs up. To be sure, the gospel is good news about Jesus. But God’s Word also explains how the sovereign power of the Holy Spirit makes that news effectual in our lives as we repent of sin and believe the truth as it is found in Jesus.

Romans 12:2 also stands in stark contrast to the truth suppression of **Romans 1:18–32**.

Unsurprisingly, the darkened mind continually shifts the boundaries of ethical norms and slips further into darkness. Along the way, unbelief clamors for everyone’s approval, enlisting public shaming and legal force in its cause. No one can deny this is happening everywhere. The treasonous revolution against the Creator is in full swing. Self-appointed, self-determined rights in the pursuit of dignity and liberty supposedly trump any outside influence, wisdom, or authority. Lost is the truth that men and women are image bearers of God, created in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. Perhaps the Word of God has something to say about how we ought to live? The painful tragedy of the

darkened mind is evident as those we dearly love self-destruct in sinful labyrinths of their own making. We grieve when righteousness is cast aside because of the harm it can mean for our families and our neighbors (Ps. 119:136). Through tearful pleas, we warn that their feet will slip in due time (Deut. 32:35).

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson **explains** further the relationship between the gospel and godliness:

Jesus wants His disciples to understand the significance of what He came to do for them, and then to make connections between what He has done and what they are to do. Understanding, the key to transformed Christian living, lies here—not primarily in our affections, or our emotions, or our instincts, or even our will. Christ will gradually transform all these. But He does so through our understanding of the gospel. As its truth affects the way we think, it begins to change the way we feel; that in turn affects what we want, and the way we behave. Thus the gospel fuels the way we live. This is the principle enunciated in Rom. 12:1–2. The transformation of our lives takes place by means of the renewal of our minds.

Most of all, the renewed mind is marked by a reliance on the Bible, the only infallible rule for faith and practice. It is sufficient. Through the light of Scripture, we begin to understand God's holy character and realize our sinfulness—learning all that was lost in Eden, and discovering why we long to return from exile to the Father's fellowship. That leads us to turn in repentance and look with joy to the redemption found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Peace with God is now possible (**Rom. 5:1**). Rejoice! Being found in Christ and living by His revealed Word brings true human dignity and liberty. A renewed mind leads to a transformed life.

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/renewed-mind-transformed-life#:~:text=When he named Ligonier's daily,Renewing Your Mind, was launched.>

Lesson

I. The Desired Presentation

1. 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.

II. The Determined Transformation

For some, they believe when you speak or our worship by means of the mind, and reason, the intellect and thinking, they believe you have made it too academic.

But that is not true.

It is academic.

God gave us a book, not a feeling.

He gave us words, phrases, thoughts.

He have a mind to reason, to think, to discern truth form error.

plain emotion not ground in the truth of scripture will lead to error.

Worship arises from correct thoughts about God.

False worship occurs with false thoughts about God.

The centrality or correct thinking in worship is born out in the next verse. The words that are chosen clearly point to the mind as the issue.^{of 57 82}

2 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.

Not one word in this text refers to your feeling or emotion, But all three phrases refer to the mind and the thinking of the mind or mindset.

1 And do not be conformed to this world,
2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind, 3
prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect
will of God.

1 And do not be conformed to this world, και μη
συσχηματιζεσθε τω αιωνι τουτω
do not be conformed

syschēmatizesthe

συσχηματίζεσθε

be conformed

V-PMM/P-2P of 58 82

Pres Middle or Passive Imperative.

Middle

Do not be conforming yourself to the world

Stop conforming yourself to the world

or

Passive

Do not be being conformed by the world Stop being
conformed by the world

suschématizó: to conform to

Original Word: συσχηματίζω **Part of Speech:** Verb

Transliteration: suschématizó **Phonetic Spelling:**

(soos-khay-mat-id'-zo) **Definition:** to conform to

Usage: I conform to.

Because the verb συσχηματίζεσθε (from συσχηματίζω, “form by,” “conform to,” or “guide by”) is in the present tense

and middle voice (probably not here in the passive voice) of 59 82

Longenecker, R. N. (2016). *The Epistle to the Romans: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. (I. H. Marshall & D. A. Hagner, Eds.) (p. 922). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

4964 sysxēmatízō (from 4862 /sýn, "identified with" and sxēmatizō, "having outward shape") – properly, assuming a similar outward form (expression) by following the same pattern (model, mold).

conform to, fashion self according to.

From sun and a derivative of schema; to fashion alike, i.e. Conform to the same pattern (figuratively)

-- conform to, fashion self according to.

Be not fashioned (μη συνσχηματιζεσθε [*mē sunschēmatizesthe*]). Present passive imperative with μη [*mē*], stop being fashioned or do not have the habit of being fashioned. Late Greek verb συσχηματιζω [*suschēmatizō*], to conform to another’s pattern (1 Cor.

7:31; Phil. 2:7). In N. T. only here and 1 Peter 1:14

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 12:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

1 Peter 1:14 (NKJV)

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to

the former lusts, *as in your ignorance*;^{of 60 82}

Be conformed is from *suschēmatisō*, which refers to an outward expression that does not reflect what is within. It is used of masquerading, or putting on an act, specifically by following a prescribed pattern or scheme (*schēma*). It also carries the idea of being transitory, impermanent, and unstable. The negative *mē* (**not**) makes the verb prohibitive. The verb itself is passive and imperative, the passive indicating that conformation is something we allow to be done *to us*, the imperative indicating a command, not a suggestion.

Paul's gentle but firm command is that we are **not** to allow ourselves to **be conformed to this world**. We are not to masquerade as a worldly person, for whatever the reason. J. B. Phillips translates this phrase as "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould." We must not pattern ourselves or allow ourselves to be patterned after the spirit of the age. We must not become victims of the world. We are to stop allowing ourselves to be fashioned after the present evil age in which we live.

New Testament scholar Kenneth Wuest^{of 61 82}

paraphrased this clause: “Stop assuming an outward expression which is patterned after this world, an expression which does not come from, nor is representative of what you are in your inner being as a regenerated child of God” (Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955], 1:206–7).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 149). Chicago: Moody Press.

1 And do not be conformed to this world, και μη
 συσχηματιζεσθε τω αιωνι τουτω
 this world

ΤΩ ΑΙΩΝΙ ΤΟΥΤΩ

to this world

165 [e] aiōni

αἰῶνι

age

N-DMS

aiōn: a space of time, an age Original Word:

αἰών, ὠνος, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine **Transliteration:**

aiōn^{of 62 82}

Phonetic Spelling: (ahee-ohn') **Definition:** a space of time, an age

Usage: an age, a cycle (of time), especially of the present age as contrasted with the future age, and of one of a series of ages stretching to infinity.

165 aiōn (see also the cognate adjective, 166 / aiōnios, "age-long") – properly, an age (era, "time-

span"), characterized by a specific quality (type of existence).

According to this world (τῷ αἰῶνι τούτῳ [*tōi aiōni*

toutōi]). Associative instrumental case. Do not take this age as your fashion plate

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 12:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

World translates *aiōn*, which is better rendered “age,” referring to the present sinful age, the **world** system now dominated by Satan, “the god of this world (*aiōn*)” (2 Cor. 4:4). **World** here represents the sum of the demonic-human philosophy of life. It corresponds to the German *zeitgeist* (the spirit of the age) and has been well described as “that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world,^{of 63}

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which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral, or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale, again

inevitably to exhale” (G. C. Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973], pp. 217–18).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 150). Chicago: Moody Press.

It is not uncommon for unbelievers to mask themselves as Christians. Unfortunately, it also is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world’s masks. They want to enjoy

the world's entertainment, the world's fashions, the world's vocabulary, the world's music, and many of the world's attitudes—even when those things clearly do not conform to the standards of God's Word. That sort of living is wholly unacceptable to God.

The world is an instrument of Satan, and his ungodly influence is pandemic.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 150). Chicago: Moody Press

James 4:4 (NKJV)

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.^{of 64 82}

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Colossians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy

and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the

world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

These ideologies of the world have so infiltrated the church that it is hard to tell the difference.

Sadly most of the time the difference amounts only^{of 65 82}

to were you are on Sunday morning and if you have a fish emblem on you bumper.

The thinking relatively the same.

The Stats verifies this tragic reality philosophies

like Darwinism, Humanism, Relativism, Materialism pragmatism, psychology, anthropology, sociology, ecclesiology, political science, philosophy regarding the family, marriage the raising of children and discipline.

education, economics,

The current love of the church of Social Justice and Critical Race theory.

the list could go on and on.

There is no single word that perfectly describes how the world thinks, but *secularism* is good for general purposes. It is an umbrella term that

covers a number of other “isms,” like humanism, relativism, pragmatism, pluralism, hedonism, and materialism. *Secularism*, more than any other single word, aptly describes the mental framework and value structure of the people of our time.^{of 66 82} The word *secular* also comes closest to what Paul says when he refers to “the pattern of this world.” *Secular* is derived from the Latin word *saeculum*, which means age. And the word found in Paul’s phrase in verse 2 is the exact Greek equivalent. The NIV uses the word *world*, but the Greek actually says, “Do not be conformed to this *age*.” In other words, “Do not be ‘secularist’ in your worldview.”

There is a right way to be secular, of course. Christians live in the world and are therefore rightly concerned about the world’s affairs. We have legitimate secular concerns. But secularism (note the “ism”) is more than this. It is a philosophy that does not look beyond this world but instead operates as if this age is all there is.

The best single statement of secularism I know is something Carl Sagan said in the television series *Cosmos*. He was pictured standing before a spectacular view of the heavens with its many

swirling galaxies, saying in a hushed, almost reverential tone of voice, “The cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.” That is bold-faced secularism. It is bound up entirely by the limits of

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the material universe, by what we can see and touch and weigh and measure. If we think in terms of our existence here, it means operating within the limits of life on earth. If we are thinking of time, it means disregarding the eternal and thinking only of the now.

We have it expressed in popular advertising slogans like “You only go around once” and Pepsi’s “Now Generation.” These slogans dominate our culture and express an outlook that has become increasingly harmful. If now is the only thing that matters, why should we worry about the national debt, for example? That’s not our problem. Let our children worry about it. Or why should we study hard preparing to do meaningful work later on in life, as long as we can have a good time now? Most important, why should I worry about God or righteousness or sin or judgment or salvation, if now is all that really matters?

R. C. Sproul writes, “For secularism, all life, every human value, every human activity must be

understood in light of this present time.... What matters is *now* and only *now*. All access to the above and the beyond is *blocked*. There is no exit^{of}
68 82

from the confines of this present world. The secular is all that we have. We must make our decisions, live our lives, make our plans, all within the closed arena of this time—the here and now.”

Boice, J. M. (1991–). *Romans: The New Humanity* (Vol. 4, pp. 1524–1525). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

1 And do not be conformed to this world,

2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

P. Pass. IMPerative.

metamorphoó: to transform

Original Word: μεταμορφόω **Part of Speech:** Verb

Transliteration: metamorphoó **Phonetic Spelling:**
(met-am-or-fo'-o)

Definition: to transform

Usage: I transform, transfigure.

3339 metamorphóō (from 3326 /metá, "change after being with" and 3445 /morphóō, "changing form in keeping with inner reality") – properly, transformed after being with; transfigured.

[3339 (metamorphóō) is the root of the English terms "metamorphosis" and "metamorphize."]

Be ye transformed (μεταμορφουσθε^{of 69 82}

[*metamorphousthe*]). Present passive imperative of

μεταμορφωω [*metamorphoō*], another late verb,
to

transfigure as in Matt. 17:2 (=Mark 9:2); 2 Cor.
3:18,

which see. On the distinction between σχημα
[*schēma*] and μορφη [*morphē*], see Phil. 2:7.

There

must be a radical change in the inner man for one
to

live rightly in this evil age, “by the renewing of your
mind” (τῆ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοοῦ [*tēi anakainōsei*
toῦ noos]). Instrumental case. The new birth, the

new mind, the new (καίνοσ [*kainos*]) man Robertson, A. T.

(1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 12:2). Nashville, TN: *Broadman Press*.

Matthew 17:2 (NKJV)

2 and He was transfigured before them. His face
shone like the sun, and His clothes became as
white as the light.of 70 82

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a
mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed
into the same image from glory to glory, just as by
the Spirit of the Lord.

2 be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**
renewing of your mind

anakainósis: renewal**Original Word:** ἀνακαίνωσις, εως, ἡ **Part of****Speech:** Noun, Feminine**Transliteration:** anakainósis**Phonetic Spelling:** (an-ak-ah'-ee-no-sis)**Definition:** renewal**Usage:** renewing; a renewal or change of heart and life.

342 anakaínōsis (from 303 /aná, "up, completing a process," which intensifies kainō, "make fresh, new"; see 2537 /kainós) – properly, a new development; a renewal, achieved by God's power.

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)^{of 71 82}

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

nous: mind, understanding, reason Original**Word:** νοῦς, νοός, νοί, νοῦν, ὁ**Part of Speech:** Noun, Masculine **Transliteration:**

nous

Phonetic Spelling: (nooce)**Definition:** mind, understanding, reason**Usage:** the mind, the reason, the reasoning faculty, intellect. 3563 noús (a masculine noun) – the God-

given capacity of each person to think (reason); the mind; mental capacity to exercise reflective thinking. For the believer, 3563 (noús) is the organ of receiving God's thoughts, through faith.

Ro 12:2,3: "2And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (3563 /ólynthos), so that you may prove what the will (2307 /thélēma) of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to^{of 72}

82 think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith (4102 / pístis)" (NASU).

There must be a radical change in the inner man for one to live rightly in this evil age, "by the renewing of your mind" (τῆ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοοῦ [tēi anakainōsei tou noos]). Instrumental case. The new birth, the new mind, the new (καίνοσ [kainos]) man.

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 12:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

Ephesians 4:21–32 (NKJV)

21if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the

deceitful lusts,

23and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.^{of 73 82}

26“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27nor give place to the devil.

28Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

29Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

The Holy Spirit achieves this transformation **by the renewing of the mind**, an essential and repeated

New Testament theme. The outward transformation is effected by an inner change in the mind, and the Spirit's means of transforming our minds is the Word. David testified, "Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee" (Ps.^{of 74 82} 119:11). God's own Word is the instrument His own Holy Spirit uses to renew our minds, which, in turn, He uses to transform our living.

Paul repeatedly emphasized that truth in his letter to Colossae. As he proclaimed Christ, he was "admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ" (Col. 1:28). By receiving Christ as Lord and Savior, we "have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (3:10). Consequently, we are to "let the word of Christ richly dwell within [us], with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God" (3:16).

The transformed and renewed **mind** is the mind saturated with and controlled by the Word of God. It is the mind that spends as little time as possible even with the necessary things of earthly living and

as much time as possible with the things of God. It is the mind that is set “on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). Whether good or bad, when anything happens in our lives,^{of}
75 82

our immediate, almost reflexive response should be biblical. During His incarnation, Jesus responded to Satan’s temptations by hurling Scripture back into His adversary’s face (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). Only the mind that is constantly being renewed by God’s Spirit working through God’s Word is pleasing to God. Only such a mind is able to make our lives “a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is [our] spiritual service of worship.”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 151). Chicago: Moody Press.

2And 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.

Today when Christians talk about discovering the will of God what they usually have in mind is praying until God somehow discloses a specific direction for their lives—who they should marry, what job they should take, whether they should be missionaries, what house they should buy, and so forth. This is not exactly what proving the will of

God means, nor is it what Romans 12:2 is teaching. The will of God is far more important than that.^{of 76 82} We may not know what that specific will is, and we do not need to be under pressure to “discover” it, fearing that if we miss it, somehow we will be doomed to a life outside the center of God’s will. We are free to make decisions with what light and wisdom we possess.

Nevertheless, we can know that God does have a perfect will for us, that the Holy Spirit is praying for us in accordance with that will, and that this will of God for us will be done—because God has decreed it and because the Holy Spirit is praying for us in this area.

Boice, J. M. (1991–). *Romans: The New Humanity* (Vol. 4, p. 1557). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

that you may prove

dokimazo: I put to the test, prove, examine

Original Word: δοκιμάζω **Part of Speech:** Verb

Transliteration: dokimazo **Phonetic Spelling:**

(dok-im-ad'-zo)

Definition: to test, by implication to approve

Usage: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.^{of 77 82}

Cognate: 1381 dokimázō (from 1384 /dókimos, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to show

something is acceptable (real, approved); put to the test to reveal what is good (genuine). See 1384 (dokimos).

1381 /dokimázō ("to approve by testing") is done to demonstrate what is good, i.e. passes the necessary test. 1381 (dokimázō) does not focus on disproving something (i.e. to show it is bad).

That ye may prove (εἰς το δοκιμαζειν [*eis to dokimazein*]). Infinitive of purpose with εἰς το [*eis to*], "to test" what is God's will, "the good and acceptable and perfect" (το ἄγαθον και εὐαρεστον και τελειον [*to agathon kai euareston kai teleion*]).

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Ro 12:2). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

what is that good

agathos: good

Original Word: ἀγαθός, ἡ, ὄν

Part of Speech: Adjective **Transliteration:**

agathos **Phonetic Spelling:** (ag-ath-os')

Definition: good^{of 78 82}

Usage: intrinsically good, good in nature, good whether it be seen to be so or not, the widest and most colorless of all words with this meaning.

18 agathós – inherently (intrinsically) good; as to the believer, 18 (agathós) describes what originates from God and is empowered by Him in their life, through faith.

and acceptable

euarestos: well-pleasing Original Word:

εὐάρεστος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective **Transliteration:**

euarestos

Phonetic Spelling: (yoo-ar'-es-tos) **Definition:**

well-pleasing

Usage: acceptable, well-pleasing (especially to God), grateful.

2101 euárestos (from 2095 /eú, "well, good" and 700 /aréskō, "to please") – properly, well-pleasing (gratifying) because fully acceptable.

In using *euarestos* (**acceptable**), Paul again borrows from Old Testament sacrificial language to describe the kind of holy living that God approves,^{of}
79 82

a “living sacrifice” that is morally and spiritually spotless and without blemish.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 152). Chicago: Moody Press.

and perfect will of God.

theléma: will

Original Word: θέλημα, ατος, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter **Transliteration:**

theléma

Phonetic Spelling: (thel'-ay-mah)

Definition: will

Usage: an act of will, will; plur: wishes, desires.

2307 thélēma (from 2309 /thélō, "to desire, wish") – properly, a desire (wish), often referring to God's "preferred-will," i.e. His "best-offer" to people which can be accepted or rejected.

[Note the -ma suffix, focusing on the result hoped for with the particular desire (wish). 2307 (thélēma) is nearly always used of God, referring to His preferred-will. Occasionally it is used of man (cf. Lk 23:25; Jn 1:13.)]

teleios: having reached its end, i.e. complete, by ext. perfect^{of 80 82}

Original Word: τέλειος, α, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: teleios

Phonetic Spelling: (tel'-i-os)

Definition: having reached its end, complete, perfect

Usage: perfect, (a) complete in all its parts, (b) full grown, of full age, (c) specially of the completeness of Christian character.

Cognate: 5046 téleios (an adjective, derived from 5056 /télos, "consummated goal") – mature (consummated) from going through the necessary stages to reach the end-goal, i.e. developed into a

consummating completion by fulfilling the necessary process (spiritual journey). See 5056 (telos).

[This root (tel-) means "reaching the end (aim)." It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).]

Perfect carries the idea of being complete, of something's being everything it should be. Our wills should desire only what God desires and lead us to of
81 82

do only what He wants us to do in the way He wants us to do it—according to His will and by His power. Our imperfect wills must always be subject to His **perfect** will.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 2, p. 152). Chicago: Moody Press.

The Will that is proven here is not the details of individual choices. The Will here is determined by its context. The Context is that you give yourself as a living sacrifice to God, as holy and well pleasing not conforming to the age and mindset we live in and transform our minds by the word of God and in doing so we will prove, or show the favorable, good and pleasing will of God that is complete for us.

If you will do this, all the other details will fall into place.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly
Be filled with the Holy Spirits.

Saturate yourself with the Word of God and do what you will.

Goodspeed(i) 1 I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by this mercy of God, to offer your bodies in a living sacrifice that will be holy and acceptable to God; that is your rational worship. 2 You must not adopt the customs of this world but by your new attitude of mind^{of 82 82}

be transformed so that you can find out what God's will is—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

With this wonderful programme of salvation before you offer to God a sacrifice, not of slaughtered beasts, but of your living selves, your own bodies, pure and free from blemish, your spiritual service. Do not take pattern by the age in which you live, but undergo complete moral. reformation with the will of God for your standard.

Sanday, W., & Headlam, A. C. (1897). *A critical and exegetical commentary on the Epistle of the Romans* (3d ed., pp. 350–351). New York: C. Scribner's Sons.