

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 2, 2014

Passage: Romans 12:1-2

Memory Passage: Romans 12:1-2

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 12:1-2.** To what section does the “therefore” in v. 1 refer: 11:33-36, 9:1-11:26, or 1:16-11:36? Why?
- (b) To what does Paul refer with the phrase, “the mercies of God” (keep the context of Romans in mind), and what does the word “by” tell us about the relationship between his appeal and God’s mercies?
- (c) When Paul uses the term “bodies” is he referring to our physical bodies only or to our entire being? How do you know?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 12:1-2.** Paul describes the sacrifice we are to offer as being “living, holy, and acceptable to God.” Explain what each of these descriptions means, and how each one informs the character of our sacrifice.
- (b) The Greek words behind “spiritual worship” (ESV) contain the idea of “reasonable/rational service (as in worship).” Why would Paul think that offering our bodies as a living & holy sacrifice that is acceptable to God is reasonable?
- (c) When Paul speaks of reasonable worship, is he talking about Sunday mornings at 10:45 or every minute of every day? How do you know? When you think of your “worship,” of which aspect do you most often think and why?
- (d) Write down at least 5 ways that you offer your body to God in this type of sacrifice.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 12:1-2.** To what does “this world” (lit. “this age”) refer (be specific), and how can we be conformed to it (observe that this word is passive)?
- (b) What specific ways are you tempted to be conformed to this world? How do you usually fight these temptations?
- (c) Paul’s antidote to the constant movement of this age to conform us to its mold is to constantly “be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” Into what are we to be transformed, and how do we go about “renewing our minds” which leads to this transformation?
- (d) Write down specific ways in which you can apply this process of renewing your mind to the list of temptations you wrote down in question (b) today. In other words, how can the process of renewing your mind help you overcome these specific ways that you are tempted to be conformed to this world?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 12:1-2.** How does renewing your mind lead to knowing God’s will, and what role does “testing” play?
- (b) Why does Paul tell us that God’s will is “good and acceptable and perfect,” and how do these descriptions help us know when we have rightly discerned God’s will?
- (c) Think for a moment of a situation in which you desire to know God’s will. How can you apply the process described in Romans 12:1-2 to this situation? Avoid the temptation to make this answer a hypothetical exercise! Seek God’s will in this situation by using these principles!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 1:18-32 & 12:1-2.** Spend some time comparing and contrasting these two passages. What acts/thoughts/ideas found in chapter one are reversed in the lives of believers who live according to 12:1-2?
- (b) What specific “mercies of God” have you learned about in Romans 1-11 that provide for believers to live the type of worshiping life described in 12:1-2?

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A Life of Worship

In Romans 12:1-2 Paul exhorts us, on the basis of God’s mercies (v. 1a), to obey 3 commands.