

# Journey Through the New Testament

## Romans 8 – 12

### *Series: Deep Thoughts with Paul*

### *“Sanctifying Grace”*

6-30-19

#### ***Introduction***

In the early chapters of Romans, Paul illuminates the plan of salvation and in this week’s readings he laments Israel’s unbelief in Christ. Paul then explains that because of the risen Christ, mercy and righteousness are available to *everyone* who believes, both Jews and Gentiles. God has offered his extravagant mercy, “therefore,” we have a response to make which is highlighted in chapter 12.

#### ***Opening Thoughts***

1. In your experience of reading the “deep thoughts” of Paul this week, what was challenging? Encouraging? Confusing?
2. What did you discover?

#### ***Prayer***

Lord, we offer prayers of thanksgiving and our lives in gratitude for your mercy and grace made available to us through Christ. Strengthen us to live a life pleasing to you and to serve you with joy. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### ***“Living Sacrifices”***

#### ***Bible Study Romans 12:1-8 (CEB)***

#### ***What?***

1. “So, brothers and sisters, *because of God’s mercies...*” what response are we to make? (v. 1)
2. Why is it appropriate, reasonable for us to give our lives in service to Christ? (Recall the ‘dead’ animal sacrifices in the tradition of the law of Israel.)
3. According to verse 2, how is a believer to live?
4. Why live in this way?

#### ***Thinking it Through***

Reflect upon Romans 12:1-2 from *The Message*

*So, here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it*

*without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

### ***So What?***

1. So, what kind of “patterns of this world” or our culture easily influence us?
2. What does it mean to “be changed from the inside out?”
3. How is inner transformation accomplished? (v. 2)
4. Discuss the relationship between the “renewing” of the mind and “not being conformed” to culture.
5. Read Romans 12:3-21 for examples of what a transformed life looks like—*your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking-around life...* Compare these traits with the values of our culture.
6. How is spiritual transformation different than “self-help” or just trying harder to be good?

***Lesson Notes:*** Chapters 12-15 describes the righteousness of God that is seen in day to day Christian life as we yield ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Giving ourselves wholly, and continually to God (our service or worship 12:1) is our response of gratitude for God’s grace freely given to us. The process of on-going spiritual renewal and transformation is known as *sanctification* and takes place through God’s grace which is called *sanctifying* grace. As our inner self is changed, little by little, our outer lives reflect what we have received inwardly. John Wesley described this as “going on to perfection;” “holiness of heart and life.” (*Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary, Commentary, New Interpreter’s Study Bible*)

### ***Now What?***

1. Each believer is unique and is to use the gifts that God has given them to serve the whole church, the body of Christ. (v. 3-8) How are you using your gifts, your life to serve God?
2. Do you sense God nudging you to dedicate more of yourself to his will in your life—to be transformed?
3. What spiritual practices (prayer, worship, scripture reading, study, fasting...) will help “fix your attention on God,” “renew” your mind?

### ***Closing***

*Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul”* Psalm 142:8