

TRANSFORMED

ROMANS 12:1-2

BY: TONY CLAY



March, 2013

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Preacher's Biography

Tony Clay began working with the PFP with weekly blog articles but now writes a monthly column titled, "Say What?" Tony is a 2011 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP). He works with the brethren at the Enon church of Christ in Webb, AL. He is twenty-one years old and is engaged to be married to Mary Taggart of the Logan Martin congregation in Pell City, AL. Tony is a Michigan native and has been preaching since 2009. Tony also edits the iSharpen blog which is updated daily with iPhone blog posts and a weekly article.



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EL Salvador May 31st - June 8th

Costa Rica June 28th - July 6th

Nicaragua July 12th - 20th

TRANSFORMED

ROMANS 12:1-2

BY: TONY CLAY

The commandment of God that is present in the text that is under consideration this month is one of chief importance. In addition to it's importance is it's innate difficulty of adherence. It is this writer's personal opinion that the commandment represented in Romans 12:2 is the most difficult command given in the Christian Dispensation. As we search through this text let us notice a few things to keep in mind: change is difficult; change is necessary; change is rewarding. Have these things in mind throughout our discussion.

The twelfth chapter of Romans is located in the section of this book dedicated to practical Christianity. The first half of this book is dedicated to a doctrinal approach, and the second, being dedicated to an application and conclusion of the things previously discussed. A study of chapters one through eleven will greatly aid us in understand the context of what Paul is saying in verse one. He begins this part of his letter by saying, *I beseech you therefore*. Those of us who preach feast upon the word, *therefore*. In the climactic moments of our sermons, emphasis is heavily laid upon this nine letter word which holds a tremendous amount of power. Perhaps therefore is the greatest of all transitional words and communicates a great culminated and conclusive flavor. The purpose of Paul's *therefore* in verse one is to bring to mind everything that has been spoken up to this point. Chapters one through eight can be likened to the book of Isaiah, being called *the little Bible*. It is in these chapters that Paul starts from the beginning and leads the reader to the Cross; from Adam to Jesus. Paul is drawing his conclusion from the following topics: that both Jew and Gentile were under condemnation because of sin; that sin cannot be justified by the law of Moses, but by the system of faith which is the Gospel; that neither Jew with his Law nor the Gentile who did not have that Law could be justified except in Christ; that Christ's death counteracted the effects of Adam's sin. In essence Paul covers, both the Patriarchal and the Mosaic dispensations and concludes in chapter eight by saying, *there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus*.

So, when Paul says *I beseech you therefore*, he is in essence saying, *because of the fact of* (the latter part of the previous paragraph) *this is how you*

ought to live your lives. Paul is not the only apostle to draw this connection. Peter, numerous times in 1 Peter will mention the salvation that is found in Christ and then immediately draw attention to the Christians conduct (cf 1 Peter 1:2, 9-10, 13-16, 22-23; 2:1, 11, 24 et al) Next, Paul progresses and extends his begging and pleading by specifying the motivating force of his beseeching. It is by the mercies of God that Paul pleads with the reader. Lard would say in his commentary on Romans, *The word mercies denotes the sum of the provisions which God has made in the gospel for our salvation*. Thus, as a result of the wondrous things He has done for us, we ought to give earnest heed to the proceeding words. He expresses his sincere desire for them to places the words that would follow with careful and earnest attention. The importance of the following exhortation is so great that he would substantiate this commandment with the mercies of God. This should give us a flavor of exactly how passionate Paul was in writing this. It was something upon which Paul was placing a great deal of emphasis.

Furthermore, Paul, in his exhortation entreats the reader to *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*. This section presents a physical incapability in having a sacrifice which is alive. To sacrifice something like the sacrifices which were common to the time of writing meant putting something to death. The Jews would bring living animals for the bloody sacrifices required by the Law, those animals being slain and placed on the alter. A similar thing is being asked of the reader, but something which remains alive in place of what has died. Like what Paul has said in Col. 3:5ff and Gal. 2:20, it is a sacrifice of self; a personal denial and resulting rebirth. The old man of sin being slain and a new man living in his place to serve God. So it is our spirit which is alive and our lives on Earth which are sacrificed for His glory. In order to have this life, there is a way that one ought to live; a holy



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and acceptable life. Lipscomb would effectively say concerning this passage, *Under the Mosaic law animals free from blemish were presented and devoted to God; under the new dispensation a nobler and more spiritual service is to be rendered; not the oblation of animals, but the consecration of ourselves.* Because of the blessed mercy of God and His great Son we ought to present, or prove our lives to be sacrificial, ethical and acceptable by God's standards.

Paul defines what this sacrificial life is. He defines it as being a reasonable, or rational service (literally, ministrations.) Reasonable, from the Greek word, *logikos* is a superior translation than what is often translated *spiritual*. When we give our lives over to God and be the sacrificial, and holy person He desires us to be, that results from a conscious, intelligent and willing decision that must be made.

Paul's thought is carried over into verse two. Because of the merciful sacrifice of Christ, we ought to live a life devoted to Him which is embodied in being separate from the world and committed to Him! The word, *and*, at the beginning of verse two could be translated, *even so*. He is specifying exactly what this new life is all about. This sacrificial life which begins when one dies to sin and begins a new life is all about a transformation that occurs in Christ! Paul is saying, *If we want to be right with God and be in a relationship with Him where we are aware of what His will is, then we must be those who will not be controlled by the world,*

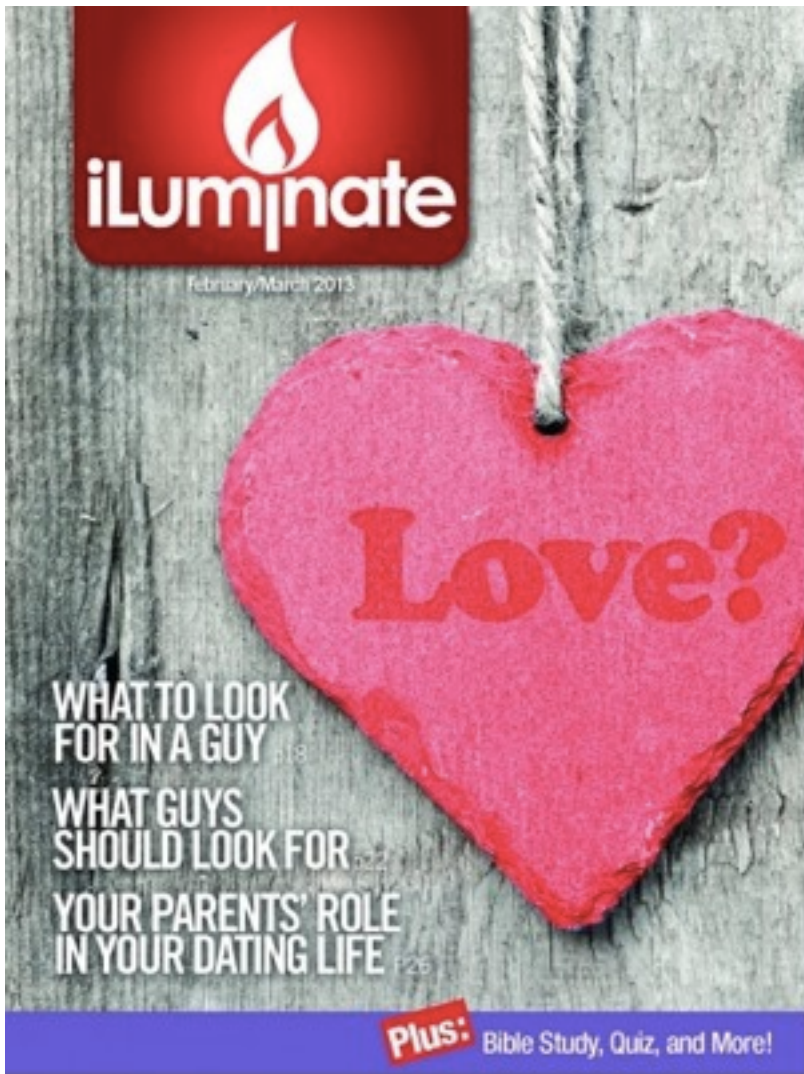
but rather willingly controlled and embraced by Christ!



The word for, *transformed*, in this passage puzzles this writer, to say the least. The Greek word is *metamorphoo* (met-am-or-fo'-o). This word in its entirety (case, form, etc) is identical to the word in Matthew 17:2, *transfigured*. Mark 9:2 also uses the same root word. Jesus, when He was on the Mount of Transfiguration was transformed. The Bible says, that *His face did shine as the sun , and His raiment as white as the light*. He was glowing as bright as the sun! It is this writer's belief that we can adequately deduce from this occurrence that the command received in Romans 12:1-2 is to be transformed and such a transformation is a precursor of the transformation that occurred on that Mount with Jesus being changed in that way! As Jesus physical body was transformed into His heavenly body, we also must be transforming our inner man into the spiritual image that God requires! And as a result of the transformation that is made within us while we live here on Earth, we will one day be transformed into the glorious image of Christ as he appeared on that Mount! If that does not provoke us to put off the old man of sin and continuously work toward spiritual transformation, that this writer fears nothing will! Knowing that the final state of our inner man will determine the eternal destination of our souls we ought to be compelled to be seeking such transforming! That by *the renewing* (or renovating) of *our minds* (in light of God's word) we can obtain the transformation that we guide us into eternity. God be thanked that we may obtain such glory though this service and obedience to Him!

Peter the apostle said this of the transformation, *"Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."* (2 Peter 1:13-18)

- Tony Clay



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In the past month, February, I was privileged to travel with our youth to Valdosta, GA for something I had never heard of a year ago. YES Weekend, Youth Enrichment Seminar, was something that has changed my life and my preaching! I'm not exactly sure that it is right, but when I go to something like this for the very first time without knowing much about it, especially something to do with the youth, I am somewhat on the lookout. It is probably due to the vast amount of youth functions in today's world, and sadly today's church, that have allowed horrible things to creep in and therefore change the minds of the young people attending. YES Weekend was NOT one of those functions! Within the first hour of arriving we were instructed in a sermon to which every Christian should listen and from which every Christian should learn.

Throughout the weekend we heard lessons on things like sacrifice, self-discipline, sanctification, surrender, service, suffering, and salvation along with multiple application lessons, for the adults at least, which were aimed at our equipping ourselves to help the young people of the church today in their walks with God. Now, I know these lessons seem like the same lessons preached and taught at every youth event regardless of its affiliation with the church or not, but these were different. It wasn't just the stereotypical lessons which pushed the children to obey their parents or not listen to music which ought not enter the ears of Christians. Those were there but there was so much more!

What did I learn? I know that YES Weekend says "youth" in the title, but it really wasn't like that at all. This weekend was a Christian Enrichment Seminar, but CES doesn't make sense so I can understand why it is called YES. I learned many a

lessons from the weekend but I think the main thing I learned was in fact a few things. I learned that our form of sacrifice is often not the sacrifice it takes to follow Christ. I learned that our difference from the world is what we were built for as Christians! I could go on and on about the major things that I learned, even though I have to admit that I had gone thinking I wouldn't learn much at all because "I'm a preacher." I learned, even though I already knew it but was scared to admit it, that preachers need help too sometimes and we shouldn't be scared to ask for prayers, repent to our brethren, etc. I know this editorial isn't a textual study or even really a Bible study at all but what I want it to be is an encouragement. An

encouragement to [click here](#) and listen to these lessons. Not because the men speaking them are amazing, which they are, but because the content is something that you will be surprised about when you think about your Christian life afterwards. The lessons aren't short, but they are important and if you want to learn more

about Christianity and actually fortify your foundation, listen.

- Lee Snow



The Best Part

The best part of anything having to do with the Bible and the divine God in Heaven is the fact that He has provided a way by which a man can be saved from his sins. Paul wrote that every single person, attempting to justify himself by way of his own means, has fallen short of the mark and has therefore been guilty of trespasses (Romans 3:23). But, thanks be to God, He has not left us alone in order to find our salvation! He has sent Himself, in Jesus Christ, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of all man's sins (John 3:16). BUT, we have to access that salvation which is freely available. How does someone do that?

Hear - Romans 10:17

Believe - John 8:24

Repent - Acts 2:38

Confess - Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16

If you have not done these things, or have never even heard such things, please contact us at the PFP. We would love to help you in your spiritual life so that you can be accepted by the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9).

Upcoming Issues

APRIL - Chris Clevenger

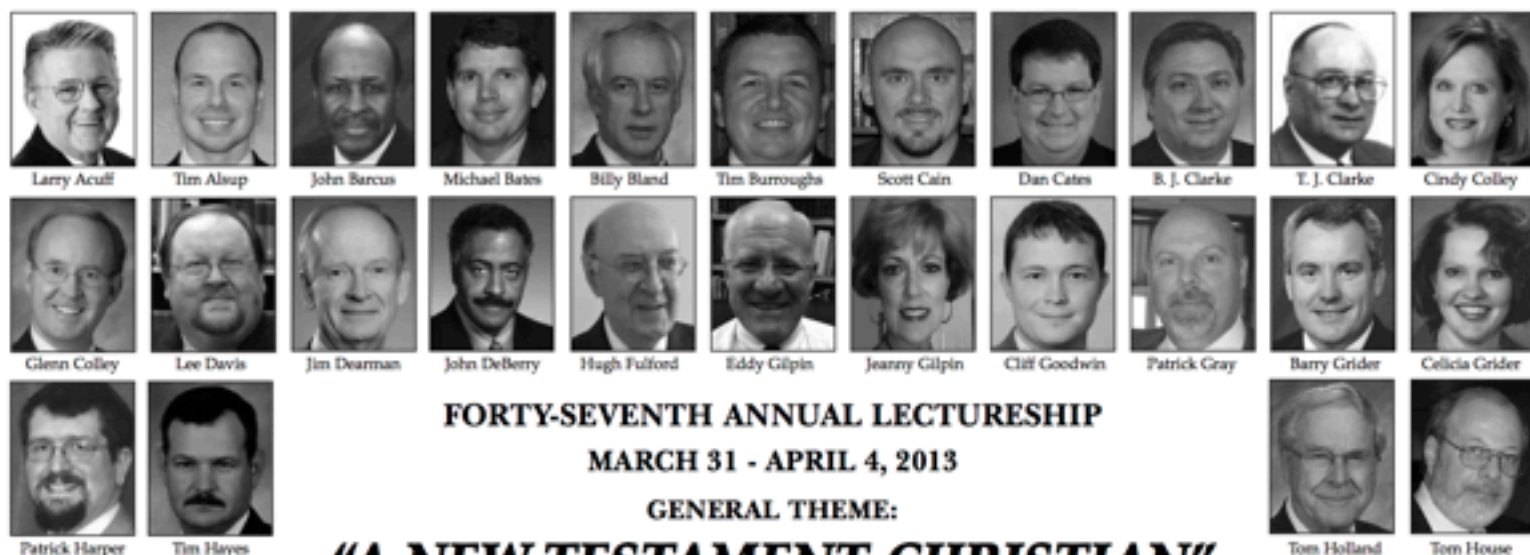
MAY - Dalton Gilreath

JUNE - Travis Byars

July - Andrew Lamica

August - Ben Giselsbach

September - Brandon Britton



FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

MARCH 31 - APRIL 4, 2013

GENERAL THEME:

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SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2013

9:30-10:20 A.M. "Jesus Christ: The Object Of The Christian's Faith"David Sain
10:30-11:30 A.M. "Why I Am A Christian"Barry Grider
5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
6:00-7:00 P.M. "Contents For The Faith"Paul Sain

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: "The Church Of Christ Is Well And Alive Because Of Its Daily Discipleship"Steven Ford
9:00-9:50 A.M. "Understands Restoration"Matthew Martin
10:00-10:50 A.M. "Forgives Without Grudging"Scott Cain
LADIES** "Christian Woman: In The Home" (Women Only)Celicia Grider
11:00-11:50 A.M. "Can I Know I Am Saved?"Larry Acuff
CLASS* "Supports World Missions"Ray W. Peters
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. "Honors God In His Home"Kelvin Pugh
LADIES** "Is A Serious Bible Student" (Women Only)Jane McWhorter
2:30-3:20 P.M. "Becomes God's Friend"Jonathan Jenkins
CLASS* "Is A Joyful Person"Kyle Wadley
3:30-4:15 P.M. "Lives A Pure Life"Michael Bates
4:15-6:30 P.M. APPRECIATION DINNER - BOBBY & JOAN LIDDELL
6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
7:00-8:00 P.M. "Believes The Simple Plan Of Salvation"Dan Winkler

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: "The Church Of Christ Is Well And Alive Because Of Its Missionary Spirit"Josue Castorena
9:00-9:50 A.M. "Trusts The Grace Of God"Glenn Colley
10:00-10:50 A.M. "Worships In Spirit And In Truth"Cliff Goodwin
LADIES** "Learns From Phoebe: How To Serve"Cindy Colley
(Women Only) "Guards His Tongue"Sam Willcut
11:00-11:50 A.M. "Loves Young People"Brad McNutt
CLASS* LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. "Respects The Authority Of Elders"Joe W. Nichols
LADIES** "Christian Women: In The Workplace"Jeanny Gilpin
(Women Only) "Understands Prophecy"Billy Bland
2:30-3:20 P.M. "Has Been Baptized For The Remission Of Sins"Tim Alsop
CLASS* SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS (MSOP CHAPEL)
3:30-4:15 P.M. "Loves The Brotherhood"Eddy Gilpin
4:15-6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
7:00-8:00 P.M. "The Church To Which A Christian Is Added"Tom Holland

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: "The Church Of Christ Is Well And Alive Because Of Its Plea"Kaleb Hall
9:00-9:50 A.M. "Trusts In The Blood Of Jesus"Tom House
10:00-10:50 A.M. "Believes In The Place Called Hell"Jim Dearman
LADIES** "Learns From Dorcas: How To Be A Caregiver"Racine Wilder
(Women Only) "Is A Good Citizen"T. J. Clarke
11:00-11:50 A.M. "Cares For The Aged"Lee Davis
CLASS* LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. "Makes Other Christians"Patrick Gray
LADIES** "Lessons From Lydia: Hospitality"Rhonda Jones
(Women Only) "Helps His Neighbor"Tim Burroughs
2:30-3:20 P.M. "Never Stops Growing"Patrick Harper
CLASS* "Works At His Marriage"Sam Jones
3:30-4:15 P.M. INTERMISSION
4:15-6:30 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
6:30-7:00 P.M. "Trusts The Word Of God"John DeBerry
7:00-8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: "The Church Of Christ Is Well And Alive Because Of Its Mission"William Abram
9:00-9:50 A.M. "Trusts In Prayer"John Barcus
10:00-10:50 A.M. "Knows How To Study The Bible"B. J. Clarke
LADIES** "Learns From Mary And Martha: How To Be Spiritual"Tanya Silcox
(Women Only) "Believes In Reverence For God"Preston Silcox
11:00-11:50 A.M. "Accepts The Genesis Record"Dan Cates
CLASS* LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. "Seeks To Be Balanced"David Lemmons
LADIES** "Women In The Book Of Revelation"Irene Taylor
(Women Only) "Knows The Difference Between The Testaments"Neil Richey
2:30-3:20 P.M. "Is Humble"Tim Hayes
CLASS* "Longs For Heaven"Hugh Fulford
3:30-4:15 P.M. INTERMISSION
4:15-6:30 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
6:30-7:00 P.M. "Is Just Like Paul"Robert R. Taylor, Jr.
7:00-8:00 P.M.

* For all Classes meet in the School Building, Room 405

** Ladies Classes meet in the FELLOWSHIP HALL.

