

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 10/31-11/1/2022 *Romans Chapter 11:33; 12:1-2!*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Theme of the Book of Romans: "Righteousness by Faith" – 1:16-17; Romans Chapter (11:32-12:2)

Review: (Rom 11:30-32) For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, [31] even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. [32] For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

TODAY'S TEXT:

(Rom 11:33-12:2) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How

unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! [34] "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS COUNSELOR?" [35] "OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM AND IT SHALL BE REPAID TO HIM?" [36] For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

(Rom 12:1) 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.

Why did the Apostle Paul break forth with these most glorious, wonderful and exalted statements, found anywhere in the Bible?

There are likely two reasons.

- **The first possibility is that it was the immediately preceding context** which led to the doxology. For three chapters, Paul has been talking about God's dealing with the Jews; about God's sovereignty; about man's responsibility in salvation and in all of these things. He is talking about this all the way back to chapter one, thinking about God's salvation! How brilliant and perfect it is, perfectly matching the Jew and the Gentile! How open it is to everyone! All of this is exploding, Paul just suddenly begins to praise the Lord for the way that He has chosen to save mankind!
- **The second equally probable reason is that Paul is giving expression to his thoughts and feelings as he contemplates everything** that he has been saying in this Epistle. This is certainly the case because in verse thirty-two, he really seems to come back to the point from which he originally set out, and that is the proof that he is winding up his great doctrinal exposition! Having done so and reflecting on the great thing which God has done, there is nothing left for him to do but to worship and praise God!

Rom 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

- **Paul thinks of this wonderful plan of God! What God has wrought!** The redemption for mankind, Jew and Gentile alike. How that God has brought it all to pass!
- **Oh, the depth** (fathomless character!) Oh, the wisdom of God in the way He has worked out this plan of redemption! The way He has opened the door to the Gentiles! The way He again will deal with His people, the nation of Israel! The wisdom and knowledge of God! (Eph 3:18-19) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— [19] to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. These depths, which are in God's great purpose of salvation, His way of restoring to sinful man, that original righteousness which man had lost as the result of his rebellion and his folly in listening to the devil. It is the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God to salvation to everyone that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek! This is God's way of making men righteous. That is the message!
- **Of the riches** (of grace and of mercy). The source of everything! Grace is undeserved favor, meaning God's kindness to people who deserve nothing but punishment, retribution and everlasting woe and misery. This is one of Paul's great themes. He can never really refer to the gospel without mentioning grace.
- **Both of the wisdom**, meaning the ability to deal with a situation. It is only the *wisdom* of God that is adequate to devise a plan and a scheme that can save man and restore him to this righteousness; and not only devise it but carry it out!
- **And knowledge of God!** How wonderful that God is omniscient, knowing everything, which means that He has been able to produce a plan of salvation for every eventuality and possibility. There is nothing that God has not foreseen, because there is nothing that is unknown to God! Just think, even as cunning as Satan is, there is no trick that he can play, but that which God already knows all about! When God

planned, He knew it all and has prepared for it all! His plan is complete in every single respect. Nothing can ever go wrong or prevent its perfect execution in every one of us who is 'the called of God!' *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God,* ever to have produced such a perfect plan!

- **How unsearchable (it is beyond us) are His judgments! And His ways past finding out** (untraceable or cannot track, that goes on into eternity, into infinity)! Why must this be true? Because God is God! He is infinite and eternal in all His attributes and powers! He is from everlasting to everlasting! He is omniscient! He is omnipotent! He is light! In everything He is no darkness at all! God is absolute and perfect in every respect! He is holy, just, righteous and pure! But man is finite. He is limited. Even at our best, we are small, limited, how little we know! *(Isa 55:8-9) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.* The Bible, alone, contains the knowledge and it is given by God. It is our business to call upon the unsaved, the natural unregenerate man, to be silent, to listen and to learn! We are to say, Listen to Me, all you who ignorantly worship. The greatest need in the world right now is the authoritative proclamation of this one and only gospel! **And His ways past finding out!** We must not be interested in what the unregenerate man has to say. He knows nothing spiritually. Man at his best can never reach it. He cannot possibly understand it! This point will be driven home in the next verse.
- **The great divide in the church regarding** how to present the gospel to those currently of the secular world seems to be pointed out by this statement: **And His ways past finding out!** One portion of the church believes to reach the secular world is for the Christian teacher to be a person of sympathy and sensitivity, but not to talk too much, but to listen to the world; learning the way of approach from the Christian to the secular world, is the way, not of proclamation but of dialogue.
- **The other portion of the church believes in following the Scriptural method**, which was the Apostolic practice consisting of proclamation of the Gospel, being precisely the same in the great periods of reformation and revival in the long history of the Christian Church. We see many examples of this. One of them is what happened on the day of Pentecost. In *(Act 2:14, 36-38)* *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words." [36] "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." [37] Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" [38] Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- **Also, in (1Co 15:1-3)** *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, [2] by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*
- **There is something even worse and that is the power and the activity of that old serpent, the devil.** That is what makes the apostle say in *(2Co 4:3-4)* *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, [4] whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. Therefore, what have I to learn from such a man, who is blinded by the devil! Why should I have a dialogue with him? No, I am sorry for him whose mind is blinded. He is ignorant, knowing nothing. I have the knowledge of the gospel, which alone can help him! It is not mine it has been given to me. It has been revealed to me and it is my duty to tell him!*
- **I am doing him a disservice by letting him talk!** He is not capable of expressing an opinion, being in the dark, dead in trespasses and sin, which is the whole of the scriptural teaching. But the modern church absolutely denies this, saying now we must preach less to you. Let us sit down and you talk. I want to listen! I want to learn from you! That is a denial of Christ! The greatest need in the world tonight is the authority proclamation of this one and only gospel!

- **Lastly we should rejoice in it because it is the only thing that guarantees our ultimate glorification** in spite of everything that may happen to us. The world, the flesh, the devil, modern man, science, and knowledge, they are all against us and would rob us of the glory that awaits us. But they cannot! Because it is God's way not ours. Man cannot interpret it! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who has been His counselor? What has the unbeliever to say? Why should I listen to him? He cannot understand God's ways. God is His own interpreter. Here is the inspired interpretation. He will make it plain! *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!*

Rom 11:34 "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS COUNSELOR?" (Isa 40:13; Jer 23:18; Job 36:22)

Rom 11:35 "OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM AND IT SHALL BE REPAID TO HIM?" (Job 41:11)

- ***For who has known the mind of the Lord?*** Where is the man who feels that he can stand up as an equal and say I know as God knows? He does not! The only way man can ever have this knowledge, is that it is given to him. The apostle works that out as in (***1Co 2:16***) *For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?"* The statement ends with, we Christians, the ones who have received the Spirit, *we have the mind of Christ*. But if a man does not have the mind of Christ, he knows nothing! He that is spiritual, judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. But we have the mind of Christ. He deals then with the *knowledge*.
- ***Or who has become His counselor?*** He comes to deal with the 'wisdom,' doing that with this question: *who has become His counselor?* A counselor is someone from whom you expect wisdom in a difficult situation, so the apostle asked this question who claims that he can give any council or help or advice to God? The answer is, that man has no help to give because of his ignorance. He cannot possibly have any advice to give that is of any value at all. Man thinks he knows! He, in his inflated arrogance, is always ready to give his advice, even to God as to what He should do. They criticize God, saying, why does God allow this? These blasphemous questions. It is all based upon ignorance. They are ready to give advice and make their suggestions, betraying his folly in all his attempts to give advice or counsel to God.
- ***Listen to modern man in his cleverness giving advice to God as to how a man can be saved.*** How a man can become a Christian. The modern man thinks he knows how a man becomes a Christian. Their answer is by living a good life, by obeying a moral code, by obeying some kind of law. Is that not the way man thinks? As it was with the Jews, so it is that many today believe they could be saved by good works. They talk about their rights and their demands, believing they believe they can present their account to God. They think in that way they can make themselves Christians, assuring themselves of the hope in heaven, to which the simple answer is that if God were prepared to accept their suggestion, nobody could be saved! We would all go to hell if God adopted man's advice and suggestion of counsel. The whole of mankind would be irretrievably doomed! That is a measure of the folly of man in putting forth their suggestion!
- ***OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM?*** We see here modern man's attitude to this matter of 'riches,' is dealt with and finally ruled out of court entirely. In other words, man has nothing to give to God at all! Not only has he no knowledge. Not only has he no wisdom, but no righteousness also to give. He has nothing to give at all in any way! What has man to give God? That is really what he is asking. Who has given first to God and God, as it were, just rewards him because of what he is given? What is man, what kind of claim can he make upon God? The great answer that runs through the whole Bible is this: Man, not only has nothing at all to give, but he is a hopeless debtor. He is one who has not paid his dues. Not only is man a debtor, but he is also a thief. He is a robber. He has taken things that do not belong to him. He has appropriated them to himself. The gifts that God gave him, intended to be used to the glory of God, man has used for his own glory! On top of all this he is ungrateful.
- ***AND IT SHALL BE REPAID TO HIM.*** Men go to God, claiming, demanding, saying, look at the life I have lived. Look what I have done. Now I expect to go to heaven because of that! They claim

forgiveness, if they should fall into sin in terms of this goodness of theirs that they have been accumulating. But the apostle says, who is there who can present a claim to God or demand or a bill and say I have given! His answer is that there is none, no one! Man is a pauper, a debtor. He is nothing, having nothing! He still is in this awful debt, having nothing whatsoever to pay. That is just his way of saying that salvation is entirely of the grace of God! Salvation is the free gift of God to totally undeserving sinners! (**Eph 2:8-9**) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.* Man does not deserve salvation. He deserves the exact opposite! He is not only weak and helpless, but also an enemy of God, a rebel of God, deserving eternal damnation! But God in spite of that, of His own free rich grace, the *riches*, that the apostle has been talking about, gives man salvation as a free gift! Salvation is in no sense whatsoever a response on God's part to something that man has first done! It is the exact opposite! The movement is entirely and altogether of and from God! Man contributes nothing at all!

Rom 11:36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

- **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** Modern man with all his science and discoveries, thinks he knows a lot. But he is only touching the fringes of things. That is all. Nothing more than that. It is exciting because he discovers certain things. What he does not know is this, that the great God, who made it all, is keeping it all going and sustaining it! In (**Heb 1:3**) *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person and **upholding all things** by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.* If He withdrew His Spirit, it would all collapse! This is a work divided between the persons of the blessed Trinity. We have the same idea in (**Col 1:17**) *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.* Now the apostle is summing all this up saying “**of Him**” - yes! But “**through Him**” also, “**are all things!**” And finally, it is “**to Him**” that all things lead! Everything leads to God. Everything leads to the glory of God. This is the most thrilling of all! The whole of the cosmos is going to finally display the glory of God! **Of Him, through Him, to Him.** The end of everything is the glory of God!
- **To whom be glory forever. (Rom 8:18)** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us.* Paul sees all this coming and as he puts it in (**1Co 15:28**) *Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.* The glory of God! **From Him, through Him, to Him, are all things!** *To whom be **glory** forever. Amen!* Now Paul has leaped onward and upward in his inspired imagination! He sees the glorious end! He is saying that this is going to be true of everything, of the whole cosmos, the whole universe! Oh, how true it is particularly in the matter of redemption. Nobody has given to God in any sense, nobody ever can! The whole of redemption is all of God and has nothing from man. Man has no part whatever in the first creation. He has no part at all in the New Creation. As the first creation is altogether of God. The new creation is also altogether only of God!
- **God initiated it all! (1Co 2:6b-8)** *yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. [7] But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our **glory**, [8] which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified **the Lord of glory**.* It is His idea. Nobody gave a suggestion. It is all of God, in thought, concept, and execution. The Son has been sent by the Father! God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. It is all applied to us by the Holy Spirit, whom the Father and the Son have sent into the church in the world. He also quickens us, enlivens us, giving us righteousness and faith! It is all the result of God's gracious, free grace and living.
- **It is all designed to the glory of God.** When God made man at the beginning, He made him for His own **glory**. The chief end of man is to **glorify** God and to enjoy Him forever. Man was made for the **glory** of God. It is the same in redemption! What is the object and purpose of our redemption? In (**1Pe 2:9**) *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may*

proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; It is all designed to show His praises, His glory! The only reason why there is such a thing as salvation at all, why any one of us is saved, is the glory of God! "Of Him, through Him and to Him are all things."

- **Amen. What does this Amen mean?** It means that you confess that you are nothing. That you confess you are a vile hell-deserving sinner. That you acknowledge gladly that you are what you are, solely by the grace of God! That you have ceased to defend yourself! You have ceased to try to excuse yourself! You have ceased to try to justify yourself in any way whatsoever! Going further, that you have ceased to try to pit your mind against God's way!
- **Are you still arguing against election?** If you are, you have not said in your heart, *Amen!* to all of this. Do not forget the mighty demonstration of chapters 9 to 11. The *purpose of God according to election!* Are you still standing up and putting your mind and your opinion against it? If so, you are not saying your *Amen!* to this great doxology.
- **The man who says his Amen! is the man who says, I am nothing! He is all!** I know nothing. I can do nothing. I have nothing. I am simply a vile Sinner. I owe all things to the grace and the glory, and the mercy of God! I give it to Him. I give it to Him with my lips. I confess Him. I say I am nothing. I say it is all of Him. I do it by my life. I am ready to say what Paul says, not only here but again to the Corinthians, *(1Co 1:30-31) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— [31] that, as it is written, "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD."* And I say *Amen* to it!
- **What can we say? There is nothing to say except what the apostle says: to whom be glory forever!** Glory be to God the Father! Glory be to God the Son! Glory be to God the Spirit, great Jehovah, Three in One. Glory, glory, while eternal ages run! *Amen!*
- **Question! Do you merely accept what the apostle says, but something much deeper, do you rejoice in what he says?** Do you burst out, with him, into acclamation and praise as you realize that God's ways are past finding out and that His judgments are unsearchable? Are you moved by it? Do you rejoice in it? Even as it was written centuries ago in that great hymn, *How Can It Be? "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain. For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be! That thou my God should die for me?"*
- **Do you agree with Paul, in what has been taught in being able to really say, Amen?**

CHAPTER 12 BRINGS US INTO A NEW SECTION, THAT OF APPLICATION.

- **We have found many divisions and subdivisions in the first eleven chapters**, but between chapters 11 and 12 there is a division, which is more significant than any of the others have been up to this point. The main teaching has been doctrinal. Romans is recognized as possibly the greatest masterpiece ever written, an incomparable and colossal statement of Christian truth! But now we come to the practical section, which continues from the 12th chapter until the end of chapter 16.
- **How do you feel as we approach this new division?** This is important to consider because if any of us feel that these remaining chapters are an anticlimax then there is something wrong as we shall attempt to learn. The same man who wrote the first eleven chapters is the man who has written the remainder of the epistle!

Why must we go on!

- **First, this is what the scriptures do and in and of itself**, which ought to be enough for us!
- **Second, we must go on because after all Christianity is not merely** a teaching but a life.
- **Third, because of the difficulties that invariably arise in the life** of a true Christian.
- **Fourth, is the intimate connection between doctrine and practice, belief and behavior.** Each reacts upon the other and you cannot separate them totally!
- **Fifth, is we are always confronted by an adversary**, a brilliant, able, subtle, knowledgeable adversary!

Here is a breakdown of the content of the remaining chapters:

- **Chapter 12:** is a general introduction to the whole section. In these verses the apostle shows us why we must turn to the application; dealing with Christians in their relationship to the church.
- **Chapter 13:** Christians in their relationship to the world, to the state, to magistrates and the powers that be.
- **Chapter 14:** brings us back into the realm of the church. The law of liberty and the law of love.!
- **Chapter 15:** continues with this question of the unity of God's people, especially in terms of the relationship of the Jew and the Gentile as Christians together in the Church of God.
- **Chapter 16:** is a series of wonderful greetings good wishes and salutations to various people, a final warning against false brethren, summarizing and bursting forth into a great doxology, ending his mighty epistle!

Rom 12:1 *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.*

- ***I beseech*** (beg of you, urge) ***you therefore*** (all things before), ***brethren*** (believers), ***by the mercies of God*** (*our motivation*), ***that you present*** (put ourselves unreservedly at God's disposal, yield) ***your bodies a living*** (continuously belonging to Him) ***sacrifice, holy*** (set apart), ***acceptable*** (well-pleasing) ***to God, which is your reasonable*** (logical mind) ***service.***
- ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.*** After all that God has done! The mercies that God has manifested. He has brought us redemption from sin! Deliverance from the power of the enemy! This beautiful new life in Christ Jesus! Therefore, present your bodies to God, as a living sacrifice. We are to put ourselves unreservedly at God's disposal. That as this animal's body was put upon the altar for an entire offering to God, so we must offer ourselves entirely to God. We must make a sacrifice of ourselves to God in the sense of presenting ourselves to Him.
- ***Present your body to God as a living sacrifice.*** Paul is basically saying that he is taking this idea of sacrifice, wanting you now to do something comparable with yourselves. Because of the mercies of God, because Christ is the one and only offering, because everything has been done, now you must present yourselves in this way to God. God wants a living sacrifice. You are to be living. We are living stones in this temple of God as our Lord Himself is a living stone. He is a stone, a foundation stone, but there is life in Him.
- ***A living sacrifice!*** When Paul talks about our presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, he wants to remind us that we must go on offering our bodies. Under the old dispensation, the priest killed the animal and put the body there upon the altar. They could only kill that animal once! There are people who think like that in the Christian life. They make one great decision, putting themselves on the altar. Having done that, they say all is well. Now I have made my offering. But they continue to live their own selfish lives. but this is a very destructive self- seeking view. The body is to be a living sacrifice. You go on presenting day by day, hour by hour, and you never stop. This is the difference between a dead animal and a living man. The difference between a stone and a living stone. We go on presenting our living bodies to God because we are no longer dead. We have become alive, and this is the living activity!
- ***Paul tells us in (Rom 6:13) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*** Let the Holy Spirit, dwelling in us, use our bodies for God's purposes in the accomplishing of things for the kingdom of God and the things that are eternal. Paul said this is your *reasonable service!* In other words, this makes sense! It does not make sense for people to use their bodies as they often do as instruments of unrighteousness, following after the lust of our flesh. Or seeking really to bring glory, honor to ourselves!
- ***The Bible tells us not to use our bodies for sinful purposes.*** Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. If you go out to a prostitute because you are joined with Christ and your body, being the temple of God, you are actually joining God with that prostitute. We are not to use our bodies for sinful purposes. But

we are to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices, that God might use our bodies to fulfill His purposes.

- **Holy (set apart), acceptable to God.** God is sovereign and He can do anything. He does not need me, I am convinced of that! God could do His work very well without me. But God has chosen to use me and to use people to accomplish His work. Not that He needs us, but He has chosen to use men and women in the accomplishing of His purposes. He could have used angels. Probably, they could do a much better job. But God, for His own purposes, has chosen to use my hands and my body. Thus, the exhortation is to yield or present your body to God. A living sacrifice!
- **Acceptable to God.** This is something that is explained in the regulations about those burnt offerings and sacrifices in the Old Testament. One was called the sweet-smelling savor. A priest took fine flour, putting oil and incense on it. When the smoke went up there was a pleasant aroma, being just a symbol of presenting to God something that would be acceptable and pleasing in His sight. That is exactly what the apostle is saying here. You must so present your body, that it will come up with the most beautiful aroma to God. Because you are a Christian and because you want to show your gratitude to God, you should keep your body in such a condition that as you present it day by day, there will be a sweet-smelling savor that will go up as it were to God! He will be very pleased and happy to accept your offering.
- **Which is your reasonable service.** Then Paul talks about our service to God. When you do this, then God begins to use you. But He first of all empowers you or He gifts you with various gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill a particular area of ministry and service for God.

Rom 12:2 *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.*

- **And do not be conformed** (putting on worldly mask) **to this world** (worldly things), **but be transformed** (changed, Mt. of Transfiguration, worm/cocoon becoming a butterfly) **by the renewing of your mind** (to us, our minds renewed by the Word of God), **that you may prove** (finding out what is or is not, good and perfect will of God, testing metal in fire for purity) **what is that good and acceptable and perfect** (completely satisfying) **will of God.**
- **And do not be conformed to this world.** **The Bible tells us that we are not to love the world** or the things that are in the world for he that has the love of the world in his heart, has not the love of the Father. What do you mean by world? John said (*1Jn 2:15-17*) *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.* That sort of sums up the worldly life. People living after their own lust. People living for glory for themselves. The pride of life. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, these are of the world! They are not of God.
- **But be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.** How many times people say, oh, I long to know the will of God for my life. How can I discover God's will for my life? Here is the key right here! Present your body to God as a living sacrifice. Do not be conformed to the world. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. You will discover what is the good and perfect and acceptable will of God for your life. Because when you do this, your life then becomes a progressive revelation of God's will. As we are praying and reading the Word, the Lord begins to guide and direct our lives in His good, perfect, and acceptable will.
- **Perfect will of God.** We are marked for perfection and so in (*Rev 21:27*) *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* This is the object. This is what it all means. We are to renew our minds, giving diligence to this! Do all you can to develop this new thinking because as you do so, you will make these grand discoveries of the will of God! That it is always good! Always right! Always best for us, having our highest interests at heart. God is always perfect! We will not find contentment until we have been restored, not only to the perfection that was in Adam, which he lost in which we have always lacked, but until we have found something even higher! We will discover that we will be partakers of the divine

nature (**2Pe 1:4**) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. We will be like Him without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, (**Eph 5:27**) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- **My fellow believers, (Rom 12:2) 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. God's will is always good! Always acceptable! Always perfect!

SUMMARY:

- **The praise, exultation, and glory of God in verses 33-36! What can we say? There is nothing to say except "AMEN" and what the apostle says: to Whom be glory forever! Glory be to God the Father! Glory be to God the Son! Glory be to God the Spirit, great Jehovah, Three in One. Glory, glory, while eternal ages run! Amen!**
- **Chapter 12 – Application!** The main teaching has been doctrinal. But we must go on to application because Christianity is not merely a teaching, but a life! Living not to please man, but to please God! Of having our minds transformed resulting in knowing, loving and living closer to His perfect will!
- **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby - Royal Albert Hall – (3:26)

1 To God be the glory, great things He has done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain-2X)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 12!