

# Romans - God's Heart Explained

Week #15: My Transformed Relationship With God.

January 12, 2020

Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome is perhaps the most influential book of the Bible outside the four Gospels. Its influence lies in the way God's heart is explained, and how His heart powerfully interrupts our empty existence. The American Pastor, Charles Swindoll describes Romans as God's grace invading the sin-fueled storms of our humanity - a grace that puts an end to our emptiness by offering forgiveness, new life through Jesus Christ and hope both for this present life we live and what lies beyond.<sup>1</sup> More than any other book, Romans explains our depravity, God's holiness, Christ's redemption and what new life in Jesus really means. You cannot follow Jesus well without comprehending what Paul writes to the Christians in Rome.

Our Sunday teaching on Romans this fall will speak to some of these deep truths that we must grow familiar with: human depravity; justification through faith; sanctification in Christ; glorification in God. But the mind is never the target ... it's our heart that matters. So, while engaging our minds with the goal of renewing them, we will consistently target our heart - because God wants our affections not merely our assent.

**Study Questions: Transformation - the measurement for every Christian.**

Read Romans 12:1-2.

1. What *are* God's mercies to me? (His specific acts & deeds)
  - the BIG ones; the little ones; the forgotten ones; the private ones; the promised & coming ones.
2. What am I practicing that is giving God room to transform me?
  - what activities in my life am I committing to so that God can transform me?
  - what activities in my life am I omitting in so that God can transform me?
3. Where am I struggling to offer my life as a sacrifice to God? Why?
  - what are my spiritually vulnerable places? How am I taking the precautions necessary to overcome my vulnerabilities?
  - what other altars compete for my life? Where is world trying to squeeze me into its mold?
4. If I knew that I would be in heaven next year, what would I change?
  - what is stopping me from making these changes right now, and how can others help me?
5. Pastor Ken said that living focused on the mercies of God takes away living the Christian life out of fear.
  - where is God telling you not to be afraid anymore?
  - take some time and find the promises of God related directly to your fears. Look up these truths through your computer - believe it or not, you can "google" these and the truths of God found in the Bible are right there!
  - write down some of God's truths that speak to your fear and memorize them so that you can bring them to mind when you are tempted again to live in fear instead of mercy.

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles. Insight for Living Bible Study Guide: Romans 1-5. 1977, Insight for Living, Fullerton CA. Back cover.