



ROMANS 12:1-2

This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

HEART CHECK: BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Our CG sessions are where we actively apply God's Word to our lives and urge each other to live out the Gospel in all areas of our lives. In preparing to facilitate a session, it can be tempting to view the CG session as an intellectual exercise where we transmit content and information to our members, instead of a session where we can love and serve those in our CG by edifying and strengthening their faith.

Here is our loving challenge to you: the spirit in which we prepare to lead the study is as important as the outcome of our preparation -- God is concerned with our hearts far more than the product we deliver. Before we seek for others to be encouraged and convicted by the text, let's first desire for ourselves to hear how God might be speaking and convicting us through His word.

For recommendations on how we can use these resources and facilitate the session prayerfully and thoughtfully, check out our ["How to Use the CG Resources"](#) note.

1. SERIES OVERVIEW

A. Goal of Series

Since the pandemic began, our church has added many new members and grown tremendously. However, due to the restrictions and various health reasons, many have never been to physical service or had much interaction or fellowship with the people of our church family, aside from digital means. Whilst it's been exciting to grow during this period, we do not want to assume that the most important value of our church – Gospel Centrality, has been grasped by all who are at Redemption Hill Church. Therefore, we want to use this series to lay these foundations very clearly in the church. Some goals include:

- Teaching about the gospel itself, and what it means to be part of a community where the gospel is at the heart of all that we do.
- Laying out the basics and foundations of our faith very clearly and explicitly.
- Romans 8: This chapter elaborates on God's victory over our sin. God's grace is given to us in the here and now (the power of the Spirit, the certainty of the hope we have, the knowledge that all things are working for our good), and that we can live as conquerors here despite our sufferings.
- Romans 12: The letter shifts from the indicatives (what God has done for us) to the imperatives (how we are to respond to God). This chapter elaborates on how we must respond to God's mercies and how we are to live offering up our bodies as living sacrifices. It also demonstrates the reality of living out God's grace and love is how a church culture shaped by the gospel looks like.

B. Summary

The first part of Romans shows us that God loves us in the gospel: by the sending of His Son to die for us, and gifting us with the promised Spirit while we overcome suffering and sin. In the second half of Romans, beginning from Romans 12, Paul shows us how we ought to love God by living in response and in living out the gospel. It is living in holiness that is the kind of worship that truly pleases God. To do so also involves the progressive transformation of rejecting what characterises this current world, and being renewed by the realities of the world to come. This progressive transformation also allows us to be able to discern and grow in our comprehension of God's will for our holy living in all areas of our lives.

C. Big Idea

True worship as a response to God's love in the gospel is 1) characterised by the offering of our lives wholly to Him, 2) to be transformed according to God's will, so that 3) we may grow in our discernment of living out God's will specific to our lives.

D. CG Takeaway

For our CGs to consider how we can respond to God's love in the gospel by intentionally 1) repenting of the ways we are still conformed to this world, 2) reflecting on how the gospel transforms us to greater degrees of holiness.

E. Fallen Condition Focus

- Conforming to the pattern of this world because we are indifferent to what He has done for us, and therefore do not trust His love towards us but rather love and trust the values of the world.
- Compartmentalising worship and thinking that it does not concern all areas of our lives.
- Not responding rightly to the gospel by thinking of it as a free licence to worldliness and neglecting God's desire for us to live rightly before Him.

Interpretation and Observation

(Read the text notes to have a comprehensive understanding and help for the answers for this section)

Why is Paul referring to when he appeals to “the mercies of God” in v1?

What is the OT concept of sacrifice and worship, and how is it connected to Paul’s exhortation in v1?

How are “conforming to this world,” and “renewal of your mind” contrasted? How does it allude back to what Paul says in Romans 8:1-11?

What does Paul mean when he urges the Roman Christians to “test” and “discern what is the will of God?”

Gospel Applications

A. Fallen condition:

Why are our hearts attracted by the ways of this world? What does it reveal about what we long for, and how we think we may achieve it/them apart from God?

Why do we tend to neglect the need to “be transformed by the renewal of your mind”? What does that say about our view of worship?

B. Personal Renewal:

How do the mercies of God in Christ Jesus enable us to live our lives as living sacrifices and spiritual worship?

Jesus’ death and resurrection for us is what ultimately helps us to discern what is God’s “good and acceptable and perfect” will for our lives. How so?

C. Shaping Church Culture:

What are some “ways of the world” that tend to seep into our ways of relating to one another within the body of Christ? How can we learn to discern these things and “transform” them by living out the gospel?