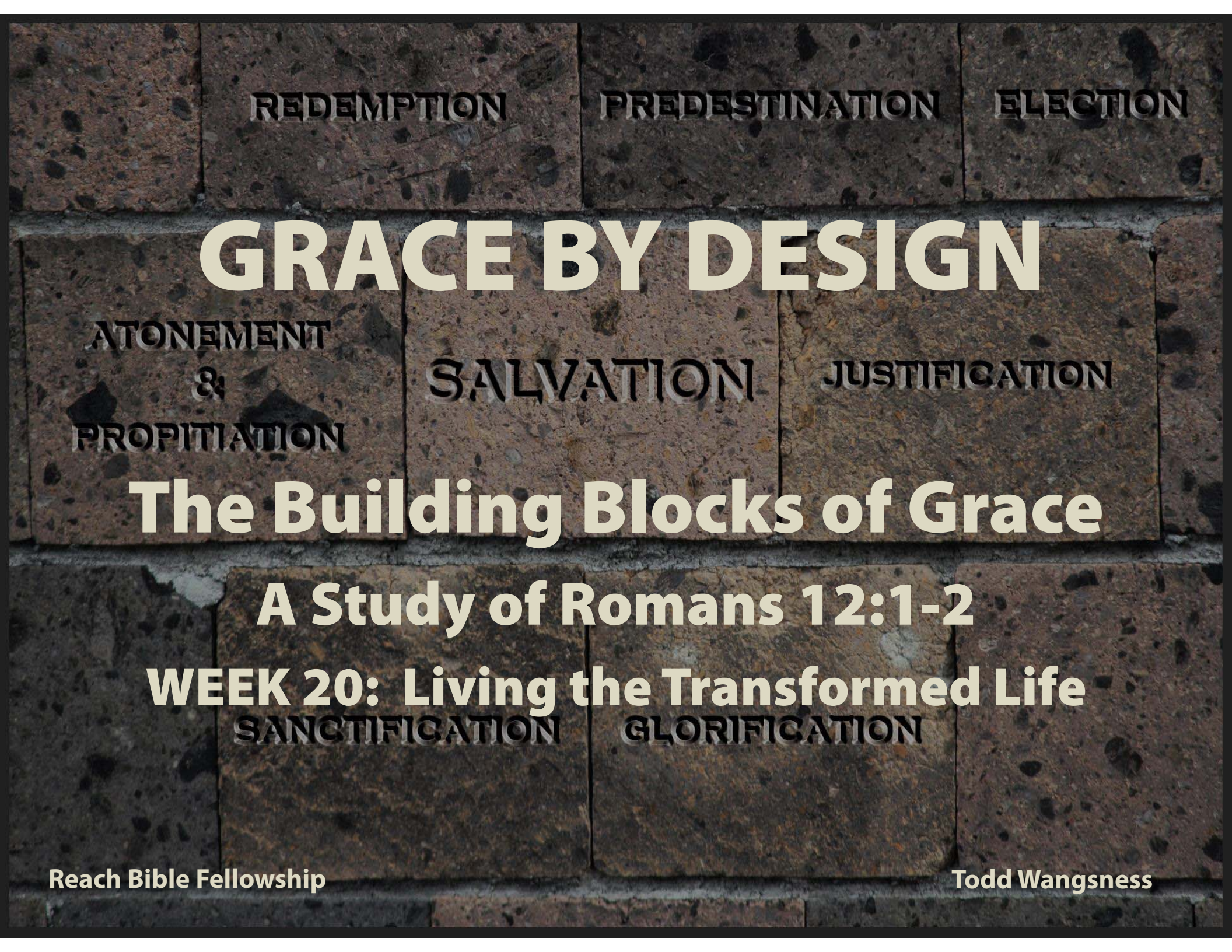


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 12:1-2

WEEK 20: Living the Transformed Life

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

Notable quotes on Chapter 12

"Romans 12 is a pivotal chapter, marking the transition from doctrine to duty, from what God has done for us in Christ to how we are to respond in our daily lives. Paul's appeal to present our bodies as a living sacrifice is not merely a call to personal piety but a radical summons to live wholly for God, transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern and do His will in a world that constantly presses us to conform."

- **John Stott**

"The apostle's exhortation in Romans 12 to offer ourselves as living sacrifices is the very heart of Christian consecration. It is not enough to believe; we must yield ourselves entirely to God, not as dead offerings upon an altar, but as living, breathing sacrifices, daily renewed in mind and heart, to prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. This is the true worship of the Christian life."

- **Charles Spurgeon**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

Chapter 12 Overview

- **Romans Chapter 12, written by the Apostle Paul, marks a shift from the theological exposition in Romans 1–11 to practical Christian living. It serves as a call to action for believers, outlining how to live out their faith in response to God's mercy.**
  1. **A Call to Total Commitment (Verses 1–2)**
  2. **Humble Service in the Body of Christ (Verses 3–8)**
  3. **Love in Action (Verses 9–16)**
  4. **Overcoming Evil with Good (Verses 17–21)**

- **Key Themes**
  - **Transformation and Renewal: Romans 12 challenges believers to reject worldly conformity and embrace a renewed mind, aligning their lives with God's will.**
  - **Sacrifice and Worship: Christian life is portrayed as a living sacrifice, where daily obedience and service are acts of worship.**
  - **Community and Humility: The chapter emphasizes unity, mutual dependence, and humility within the church, with each member contributing their unique gifts.**
  - **Love and Non-Retaliation: Paul stresses sincere love, even toward enemies, and overcoming evil through good, reflecting Christ's teachings.**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **In chapters 1-11 of Romans, Paul presents a theological and doctrinal exposition of the topic of grace**
- **Now, starting in Romans 12 and continuing through chapter 15, he delves into the practical application of God's grace in our lives**

- ***"I beseech you therefore …"*** **Greek: *'parakaleō'*. Strong encouragement**
  - **Paul uses 'therefore' to show that – based on the persuasive exegesis he presented in the earlier chapters regarding salvation – we are "strongly encouraged" to dedicate our lives to God**
- **We are to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice", based on the redemption we have in Christ!**
- **'Redemption' means that we were purchased out of slavery**
  - **When a person accepts Jesus as their Savior, then we are redeemed by His blood**
  - **We have been purchased out of the slave market of sin and have now been set free!**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **This does NOT mean that we automatically become a slave of the Messiah!**
  - **To become a slave of the Messiah, we have to make a conscious, deliberate choice!**
  - **Back in Romans 1:1, "*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*", Paul says that he was a bondservant or slave to Jesus Christ**
    - **He did so of his own free will**
  - **Now he "strongly encourages" each of us to make the same decision**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **Having been set free from the bondage to sin and our sin nature, we should be willing to become bondslaves to God**
- **Why should be become slaves to God?**
  - **Because of the "*mercies of God*"**
  - **The mercies of God were described to us in detail in the earlier chapters**
    - **The past aspect of Justification**
    - **The present aspect of Sanctification**
    - **The future aspect of Glorification**
  - **God's mercies also include our identification with the Messiah because we are:**
    - **Co-Crucified with Jesus**
    - **Co-Buried with Jesus**
    - **Co-Resurrected with Jesus**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **We are in a brand-new position … We are IN the Messiah!**
- **As a result of this new position, we are given tremendous spiritual POWER and AUTHORITY!**
  - *Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
  - *Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*
  - *Joh 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
- **Everything God has done for us is based on the 'mercies' He has freely bestowed upon us!**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

- *"present your bodies a living sacrifice"*
  - Greek: *'paristēmi'* - yield, place a person or thing at one's disposal, bring to, bring near, bring into one's fellowship or intimacy, yield oneself to another
  - Paul is echoing the same thing he discussed back in chapter 6
    - *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."*
      - 'members' (Greek *melos* – body parts)
      - 'instruments' (Greek *hoplon* - arms used in warfare, weapons)
      - In other words, we're not to yield our bodies and carnal appetites as weapons for the evil one, rather, we're to present our minds and bodies to God for His use and purposes
  - Paul is talking about our bodies … our being
    - Prior to justification, our bodies were instruments of unrighteousness
    - After salvation, our body is to become an instrument of righteousness … a temple of God
    - But – we need to make the conscious decision to yield to God's righteousness
    - Our body (and mind) should be dedicated once and for all to God's service

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

- *"which is your reasonable service"*
  - **Greek: *'logikos'* - logical, rational, reasonable**
  - **To present your body to God is a reasonable, logical, rational thing to do**
  - **It is an act of the mind and will**
  - **The Believer has carefully thought this through and – realizing all that God has done – made the deliberate, conscious decision to offer himself/herself to the Lord**
    - ***Luke 14:27-33 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it … 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? … 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.***

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **Our dedication to God has both a negative and a positive aspect**
- **<u>Negative</u>: *"do not be conformed to this world"***
  - **We are not to fashion ourselves after or conform to this worldly system**
  - **We are not to conform to the mind programming that is in this world through the "prince of the power of the air".**
  - **EVERYTHING this world offers MUST be tested by the Word of God**
    - **Anything that conflicts or contradicts Scripture must be rejected … even if society demands its acceptance**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **Positive**: *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind"*
  - **"Transformed" Greek: *'metamorphoō'. To* change into another form, to transform, to transfigure. Where we get our English word, 'metamorphosis'.**
  - **Currently, this world functions under a satanic system, replete with its fallen programming**
  - **We need to allow God to 'reprogram' our minds**
  - **He uses His divinely inspired Word to accomplish this task**
  - **We need daily absorption of the Truth in His Word to allow the reprogramming of our minds to occur**
  - **"Renewing" Greek: '*anakainōsis*'. A renewal, renovation, complete change for the better. (Ref. Tit 3:5)**
    - **This is the domain and work of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us**
  - **Regeneration imparts a new capacity to the mind to perceive things of God**
    - ***Eph 4:22-24, Col 3:9-10***

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

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.

- **"Prove" Greek: '*dokimazō*'. To test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not)**
  - **God wants us to "put Him to the test"!**
  - **He also wants us to develop spiritual discernment so we can examine/perceive whether something is:**
    - **Good for us (or others)**
    - **Acceptable to God**
    - **According to the perfect Will of God**
- **God has a perfect plan for each of us**
- **However, this plan can ONLY be experienced after an initial act of total devotion and dedication**
- **We are now to REJECT the world's fallen ways and allow a reprogramming of our minds to the ways of God**
- **Then (and only then), we can experience the ABUNDANT life God offers us!**

Grace By Design: Living the Transformed Life

Questions to ponder:

- What does it look like to have our lives totally dedicated and devoted to God?
  - How should that manifest in our daily walk?
- How do we "allow" a reprogramming to occur?
- Eph 3 says that "God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us."
  - How do we manifest, exercise this power in our lives?
  - Do we TRULY BELIEVE we have this authority?
- What is our obligation to brothers/sisters in the Lord that may be "overtaken in trespass" (Gal 6)?
  - Speaking the truth in love …
  - Make sure we're in the right attitude and "prayed up" first
  - Take care of the "beam in our eye" before we go after the speck in our brother's eye
- I Cor 2:16 says, "For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."
  - Do we live our lives according to the promise that we have Jesus' own mind?
- Do we drag God into any wordly cesspools or activities? Or allow words out of our mouth that cause Him to grimace?