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SAVED. SO NOW WHAT? (Part 4)
Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12: 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

STORY : The first Star Wars came out on May 25, 1977. I was 7 years old then. (So it's going to be 50 years, 2 years from now.) One of the things that made an impression on me is Luke Skywalker who was a Jedi. One of the powers of a Jedi is they can control things only with their mind. I would love to have that power. It's called "The Force"

There's a secret thing that I do nowadays. You know those doors that have motion sensors that automatically opens when there's a person walking in. That person doesn't have to touch the door. It either slides to the left or right or the two doors just open wide. Whenever there's a sensor, I imagine I can open the doors just using my mind.

Today, by God's grace, we'll finish this series on what do we do, now that we are saved?

By God's grace, we have now finished part 1, part 2 and first part of verse 2

- I. **RESPOND WITH LOVE**
- II. **RELINQUISH YOUR CONTROL**
- III. **RENEW YOUR MIND**

Before we talk about part 3, let's review the first 2 we discussed.

I. RESPOND WITH LOVE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,

And we jetstreamed through the entire Romans 1-11 to show us our condition, what God did and who God gave and what happens to a Christian if the person believes and it's all according to God's mercy and grace.

So how do we respond to God's love and mercy and grace?

The response is love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 16: 14 Do everything in love.

II. RELINQUISH CONTROL

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

What does IT MEAN TO OFFER OUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE?

It is what Jesus said,

Matthew 16 : 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

IN SHORT : TO BE A LIVING SACRIFICE MEANS, WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO GOD AND SERVE HIM. NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL OH GOD.

And when we do this... then we are truly worshipping God.

this is your true and proper worship.

This literally means "worship service".

Biblical Illustration : Remember the story, when God was on His throne surrounded by His angels and showed Himself to Isaiah. Isaiah realized who he is in front of God, unworthy, undeserving and yet when God said, your sins have been paid and then God asked,

Isaiah 6: 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

This is what Isaiah replied.

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Last week : we started with

III. RENEW YOUR MIND.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How did our mind work before Christ?

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world

Etymology : conform to the pattern (one word in Hebrew) "syschematizo" where we get the word schematics... it means, there is a blueprint.

World "aion" age... how the world thinks; the philosophies and ideas of this world.

Remember this, there are two forces where our philosophies, ideas and morality come from before we were saved and we are bombarded by it up to now.

1. Satan
2. Sinful nature

Let's talk about Satan trying to control our minds.

We have to remember that Satan is the god of this age and control how this world thinks.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

How does Satan control the minds of the people?

Ephesians 2: dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

- He controls our mind by letting us think that we can live independently of God.
in the sons of disobedience

- He controls our mind through the lust of the flesh. (Exploits our weaknesses)
among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh,

- He controls our mind by through worldly desires.
fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind

TO CONTINUE : RENEW YOUR MIND

Now knowing that our minds were being controlled by Satan and by our own flesh, we need to renew our mind... **How does this happen?**

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- There must be transformation
- Through renovation
- So that we will have illumination

I. TRANSFORMATION

but be transformed

Etymology : transformed “metamorphoo” (meta, (after) and morpho (to form)...”the form after”

Example : Before and after photos of former drug addicts.

What kind of transformation does God want to happen in our lives?

The word “metamorphoo” was used 3x in the Bible

- Here in Romans 12:2
- It's used in the transfiguration. Remember the story where our Lord brought Peter, James and John.

*Matthew 17:1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was **transfigured (metamorphoo)** before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.*

- **We can also see this in 2 Corinthians 3:18**

*2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed (metamorphoo) into his image** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

THIS IS THE TRANSFORMATION GOD WANTS TO SEE. Based on how the word "metamorphoo" was used in the Bible. The transformation God wants to see in us is that **we become more and more like Christ so that we will show His glory to others.**

That's why our Lord Jesus Christ said :

*Matthew 5: 14 **"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.***

Remember, transformation is God's work and also our work. What do we mean by that?

*Romans 8: 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

Illustration : The word "metamorphoo" is where we get the word "metamorphosis"

(show gif) There was a kid who was walking along the garden and saw a cocoon and inside was a butterfly who was trying to get out. She had pity on the butterfly that was struggling and so she helped open the cocoon thinking once the cocoon opens, the butterfly will be able to fly. What happened is the butterfly fell to the floor and was never able to fly on its own. Why? It's because the struggle inside the cocoon helps, the movement, the resistance against the tight space help pump fluid into the wings so it properly expands and develop properly. Without the struggle, the butterfly's wings remain weak and unable to support flight. So it's not going to live what it was intended to live.

Just like us Christians, the struggle is meant for us to become strong, so that one of these days, we will be living the life God intended us to live.

That's why James said :

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

So transformation is God's work and our work. We saw how God works. What's our work?

II. RENOVATION

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Etymology : renewing “anakainosis” , literally means to renovate, **CHANGE IT FOR THE BETTER!**

Etymology : mind “nous” understanding, our thoughts, feelings, desires and etc...

GOD WANTS TO RENOVATE OUR MIND! WHO WE ARE FROM THE INSIDE. WHY?

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

WHO WE ARE on the inside...that’s who we TRULY ARE... OUR WORD FOR THAT IS CHARACTER.

Basement Illustration : I remember, it was almost a year ago when our basement flooded because the rain spout got broken and the water when into the window well. Our basement flooded. Jovert, Oca and relative of Irene with the help of Noel helped “renovate” our basement. They took out the carpet, there were a lot of things that were thrown away, then they had to change the drywall, then change the flooring from carpet to vinyl and then had to paint the walls. Now, I love staying in the basement, it’s RENOVATED!

It's the same with our minds, before we knew Christ, it was flooded by a lot of unpleasant things. We need to remove it and renovate our mind...WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR CHARACTER TO BE MORE CHRISTLIKE SO THAT WE CAN GLORIFY HIM!

Quote : “The revolution of Jesus is in the first place and continuously a revolution of the human heart or spirit. It did not and does not proceed by means of the formation of social institutions and laws, the outer forms of our existence, intending that these would then impose a good order of life upon people who come under their power. **Rather, his is a revolution of character, which proceeds by changing people from the inside through ongoing personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another.**” - Dallas Willard, Renovation of the Heart : Putting on the Character of Christ.

This is the reason why I’m against prosperity gospel. It’s selling the idea that Jesus Christ came to change people’s lives by making them wealthy and healthy!

Quote : God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. – Rick Warren

How can we renew our mind?

Remember, Satan and our sinful nature were the ones who controlled our mind before...They are the one who flooded it with stubbornness, with lust, with worldly desires, with wrong thinking and the only way.

1. Be aware of what goes into your mind, your desires, your wants and etc. Does it glorify God?

2 Corinthians 10: 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Research : Do you know that the human mind processes 6,000 to 60,000 per day.

Quote : The average person has up to 60,000 thoughts per day. Of, 80% are negative and 95% are exactly the same repetitive thoughts as the day before. - National Science Foundation

APPLICATION : Satan, will put in your mind, worry, hatred, anger, fear... we need to capture those thoughts and make it obedient to Christ...IN short, WE ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT CHRIST IS LORD AND WE WILL FOLLOW WHAT HE SAYS INSTEAD OF WHAT WE THINK!!!!

For example :

Satan says to you "Worry", "Be anxious"... "what will happen tomorrow".
WE CAPTURE AND SAY!!! My Lord Jesus Christ says :

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Or another thing that Satan will put in your mind is to hate people or to judge people and look at them negatively.

What does our Lord Jesus Christ say about this :

Matthew 5: 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

THAT'S WHY, IT'S IMPORTANT

2. Saturate your mind with God's Word. Do I know God's Word?

This is the only way you can renew your mind. Why?

2 Timothy 3: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

If you know God's Word, then you will be able to learn, rebuke your thoughts, correct, your thoughts and train your thoughts that will glorify God.

BIBLICAL Illustration : Remember SATAN will try to tempt you and deceive you with his lies. **How did our Lord Jesus Himself fight it? He did it with God's Word.**

- **When He was tempted not to trust in His Father's provision. (stone to bread)**

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

- When He was tempted not to trust in His Father's plan or timing (highest point, angel will catch)

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- When He was tempted with the powers and riches of this world, just as long as you don't put God first.

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

That's how we RENOVATE OUR MINDS. WE USE THE WORD OF GOD AS THE FILTER.

IF YOUR MIND IS FULL OF GOD'S WORD THEN you can filter every thought, every action, every desire through God's Word. Is it according to God's Word?

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

III. ILLUMINATION

Illustration : I saw one time a person selling a water filtration system. He showed it in such a way that he placed dirty muddy water into the contraption and then the filtration system did it's work and then transformed the dirty water into clean water.

We have a term for that, "Luminaw yung tubig" ... I love that term.

It's the same when we FILTER OUR THOUGHTS WITH GOD'S WORD! LUMILINAW ANG PAG-IISIP NATIN... OUR MIND GETS ILLUMINATED... EVEN OUR AURA...EVEN OUR FACE LUMILINAW.

Look at your neighbor's face right now, is it "malinaw"?

Now again, the Bible says, that when our minds are being transformed by God's Word.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Now follow me here :

Remember, Paul said in the previous verse:

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God

And we studied and repeated several times, it means saying to our Lord Jesus Christ... "Lord, I'm relinquishing control of my life... I WANT TO FOLLOW YOUR WILL NOT MY WILL..."

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW GOD'S WILL? - THROUGH THE BIBLE!!!

That's why again, when we know the Scripture, WE KNOW THAT WHAT WE ARE THINKING AND DOING IS HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD!

And why do we want to follow God's will instead of our will? BECAUSE HIS WILL IS...

good, pleasing and perfect will.

Etymology :

good “agathos” pleasant, joyful, agreeable, excellent
pleasing, “euarestos” good, elevated.. raised up.
perfect, “teleios”... complete, perfect...

Do you want your life to be pleasant, joyful, agreeable, excellent, good, pleasing, elevated, complete, perfect?

FOLLOW GOD’S WILL.

That’s why the Bible says :

Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

The key word there is “set your minds” 1 word in Greek, “phroneo: – “direct your mind.”

Your mind is worrying? “CAPTURE IT...DIRECT IT TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WORD”

Your mind is hating or thinking of negative things about others? “CAPTURE IT...DIRECT IT TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WORD...

And what are the things we should be thinking about? Look at this...

Philippians 4: 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Make sure, our minds are fixed on Jesus and His Word and only on good things and not on the “Kabuwisitan”...

AND HERE’S THE RESULT...WHEN WE DO THIS? LOOK AT THIS...LOOK AT THIS...

Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

That’s why Paul says : *Philippians 4: 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

REMEMBER, YOUR MIND IS A MUSCLE. READ GOD’S WORD! PUT IT INTO PRACTICE! THINK ONLY OF THINGS THAT ARE RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, ADMIRABLE, EXCELLENT, PRAISEWORTHY... THINK ABOUT JESUS!!!

ILLUSTRATION : Do you know what eagles do when they are in the middle of a storm? They use the updraft of the winds in order for it to fly above the storm. **THEY SET THEIR MINDS ABOVE THE STORM**

Again, the lyrics of the song :

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, You are King over the flood
I will be still, know You are God*

At the start of the series, we asked...

SAVED? NOW WHAT?

- I. **RESPOND WITH LOVE** - It is connected with the giving of our Heart (in view of God's mercy) to Jesus
- II. **RELINQUISH YOUR CONTROL** - It is connected with the giving of our Body and Soul (offer your bodies (soma) as a living sacrifice) to Jesus.
- III. **RENEW YOUR MIND** – It is connected with the giving of our Mind to Jesus.

Saved? Now What? Simple :

Mark 12 : 28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

*29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

NOW LIVE THIS WAY FROM NOW ON. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

S.G.D.