

Why Nothing Changes in My Life, Part 1 - Romans 12:2 – February 24th, 2013

- As I mentioned at the beginning of our prophecy update, we'll also be doing something a little different for our teaching in Romans as well.
- Here's why, prior to our arrival in chapter twelve, I had been anticipating teaching verse two, only to realize that after, I need to re-teach it.
- So, for today, and Lord willing next Sunday, I need to do just that. Namely, revisit and re-teach this most fascinating verse in our Bibles.

Romans 12:2 NKJV 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.

- By way of introduction, I would like to begin by asking a question, and please know that as always, it's one for which I ask of myself as well.
- Have you ever wondered why it is we can study God's Word, pray, fellowship at church, even share the Gospel, yet nothing ever changes?
- The same question a different way; why is it, that I can know what God's Word says, and how to do what God's Word says, yet never do it?

- It's this question that I hope to answer from God's Word in what will be a two part series that I've titled, "Why Nothing Changes in My Life."
- If the truth be known, I've been sitting on, and praying about this teaching for the better part of one month now, and believe now is the time.
- By that I mean, I think that now is the time for this word, fitly spoken, for such a time as this, and for what should be deemed good reason.

- Here's where I'm going with all this, a while back a brother from the mainland sent me a TED video that sort of turned the light on for me.
- It just so happened to be at the time that I was preparing a teaching in the "Fulfilled Christian Life" series, which we will be resuming after.
- Actually, it served as an epiphany of sorts as it relates to verse two of Romans twelve, in that I felt as though I wasn't thorough enough.

- More specifically, I sensed I'd only scratched the surface in terms of what it really meant to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- I would be disingenuous were I to tell you after teaching through verse two, that I was satisfied with my understanding of what this meant.
- After I had sought the Lord concerning my dissatisfaction, He granted me the much-needed grace of re-teaching this most profound verse.

- I sensed from the Lord that not only was I to re-teach it, but that He would change me, in and through my studying it, and re-teaching it.
- However, this process of changing or, transforming, if you prefer, is not an event rather, it's a process, taking place over a period of time.
- So, I would like to thank you in advance for your time, as I take some time, to share with you that which God has so profoundly showed me.

- In a sentence, the Lord has shown me that I can preach and teach all I want about a fulfilled Christian life, yet never see the transformation.
- Let me explain, how to live a fulfilled Christian life, and what living a fulfilled Christian life will look like, are both insufficient to change me.
- The reason they are both insufficient is because only the "why" will motivate me, and enable me, to want to know "how" and do the "what."

- The truth of the matter is, this is how God has wired our minds and hearts in that the "why" motivates us to respond changing our behavior.
- By the way, this is why some Christians get it, and others don't. This is why some Christians have a passion for the Lord and others don't.
- This is why some Christians live a fulfilled and joy filled Christian life, and other Christians live an unfulfilled and miserable Christian life.

- By way of illustration, and for purpose of discussion, let's say that I teach Romans twelve in such a way that I only give you how and what.
- In other words, my teaching would be something like; dying to self is "how" you can have joyful life, and it's "what" you need to do to have it.
- So, "why" don't more Christians who know how to live their life, do what they need to do so they can live that life? They don't know why!

- Because they don't know why, they won't die, and because they don't die, they won't live that abundant fulfilling life Jesus came to give.
- The bottom line is I won't die to self because that's what I'm to do. I die to self because I believe in "why" I am to do it. I first need the why!
- At the risk of complicating something that's actually quite simple, God made our brains with what I like to call the big three, if you please.

- In looking from the top down, our brains have three major components, the outer neo-cortex is the what, and as such it's the rational part.
- The two inner components make up the limbic system of our brains, and as such they are responsible for our feelings, and our emotions.
- It's also responsible for all our behavior, and even all of our decisions, however it has no capacity in the realm of rational thought process.

- Herein lies the problem, I won't change my behavior merely with the what, nor the how, because I didn't first have the why to change it.
- When you start with the why first, then, and only then, will you have the decision making capacity to change your behavior and die to self.
- Lest you think that this is bordering on psychology or psychiatry, let me hasten to say that this is neither. Rather it's physiology and biology.

- Here's how it works, once the limbic system of my brain physiologically understands why, it enables me to know both how and what to do.
- In other words, once the decision has been made, and the behavior controlled, the how and what I do can be rationalized in the neo-cortex.
- This is "why" we make what we call "gut decisions," or "follow our feelings." This is why we don't make decisions when it doesn't feel right.

- This explains why we as Christians can have all the information, all the facts and figures, all the scriptures, and never change our behavior.
- We know "how" we are to behave as Christians and we have even rationalized that it's "what" we are to do as Christians, but we don't do it.
- Why? The "why" question is answered with "why." More specifically, the reason why we don't do the how or the, what is, we don't believe.

- That's why we don't make the decision to act on that which is clearly rational and change our behavior in how we live our lives in this world.
- We do know what we believe, and even how we believe, we don't know why we believe what we believe, and that's why nothing changes.
- What decides whether or not my life changes or not is do I believe in what I'm doing and how I'm doing it? What I do proves what I believe.

- Please put this truth of "what I do proves what I believe" in your hip pocket for next week as it will be germane to the renewing of our minds.
- In closing, I'll take it one step further and say, we can never hope to have a changed and transformed life absent this renewed thinking.
- This of course presupposes that you even want that which Jesus came to give you, namely new life, an abundant life, nay even eternal life.