

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

A night sky filled with stars, with the dark silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

*Be Transformed,
Not Conformed*

Romans 12:1-2

Context

Paul wrote Romans in the mid 50's. The theme is *God's righteousness*... He speaks of humanity's ***condemnation*** in Romans 1-3:20... ***justification*** in 3:21-5:21... in chapters 6-8, ***sanctification*** is discussed. Chapter 8 ends with his discussion on ***glorification***... Chapters 9-11 deal with Israel: *past* – 9, *present* – 10 and *future* – 11...

Romans 12:1-2

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A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

Paul has a passionate plea. ...*I appeal to you*. Other translations say – *plead, beseech, urge, exhort*, and some translations have the “*Therefore*” first. But the word for *appeal* carries with it the idea of being ***up close and personal as a continuous request***. It is almost as if Paul was there personally, making this request to them.

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

...therefore – when we see this word or one related to it, we need to ask - *What is this there for?* He says... *by the mercies of God* – not “mercy” but “**mercies.**”

What is **mercy**?

Grace is *being given* something good you don't deserve. **Mercy** is *not getting* what you deserve!

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

Paul is speaking of *everything he's written about thus far* in *chapters 1-11*: depravity, condemnation, grace, salvation *by faith alone and more*. Remember, there were no chapter breaks or verses in the original manuscript. Paul speaks of how God gives *victory in Jesus* and makes us a co-heir with Him and the resurrection of our bodies...

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

We must learn **truth** first! *We cannot apply God's truth if we do not know God's truth!* A proper understanding of Biblical doctrine must come **before** *application*. Yes, we can learn a lot and **not** apply it. That is another problem. But a problem in the church today worldwide, is *skipping interpretation and going directly to application.*

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

We **obey** Him, *because of His love for us*, and we *understand His love for us*, when we understand His **mercies**. We understand His mercies because we *don't just know the truth*, but **act** on that truth, because we have a **right relationship** with the God of the universe, *only because of His grace and mercy!*

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

The **Jews** in the Roman assembly fully understood what Paul meant. They knew all about the **sacrificial system** God gave in the *Mosaic Law*...

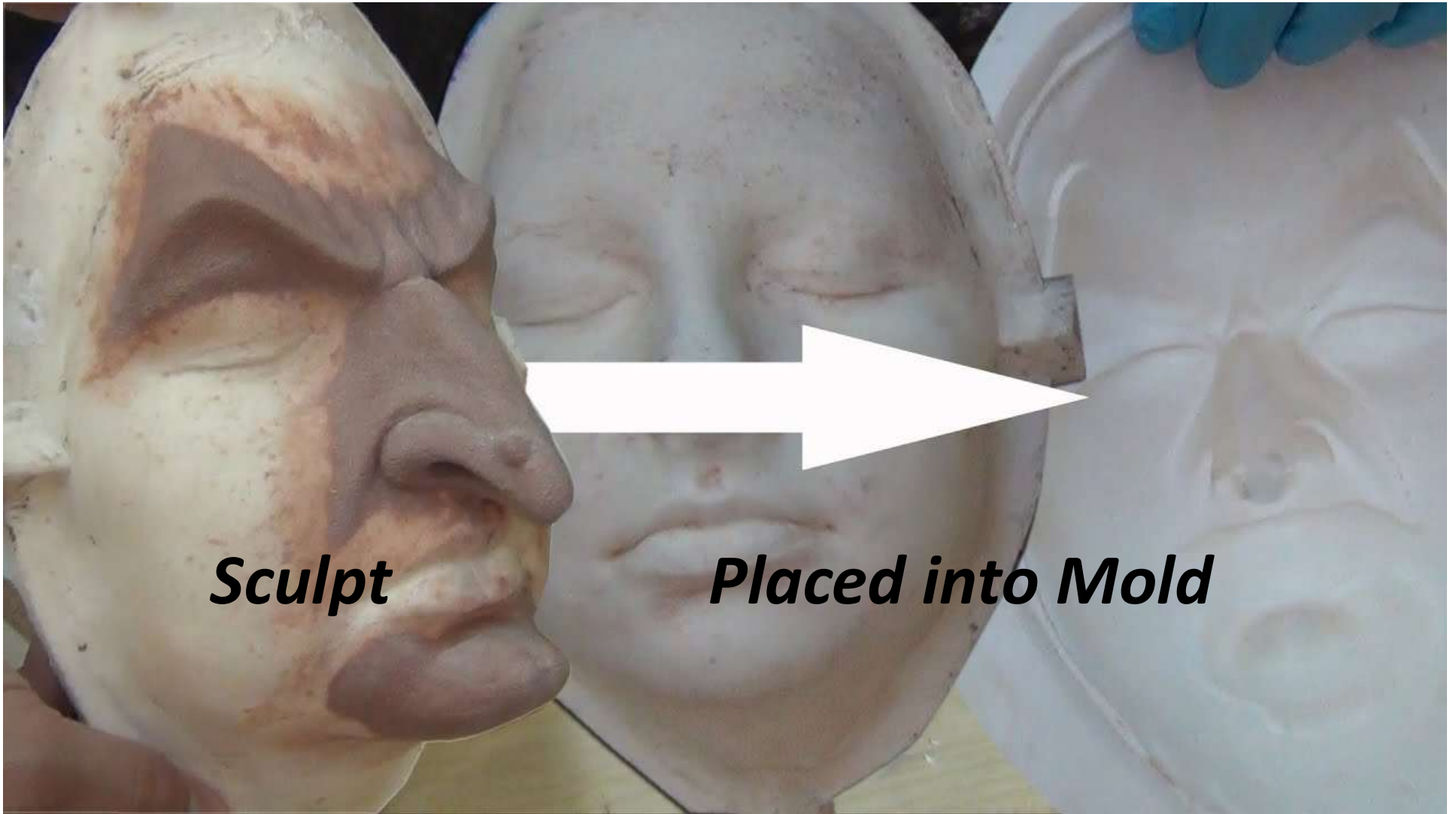
The **gentiles** also understood about sacrifices. **Sacrifices** were offered to the pagan gods of Rome, so this was a *familiar concept to his audience*.

A. 12:1 – A Living Sacrifice

You can *only offer it once*. Paul, a Jew, tells believers to *offer* their bodies as a *living sacrifice*. This is something they would do *daily*, and *all* of the time, not just once... This is... *your reasonable or rational service or worship*. Paul is *using the imagery of the priests* in the Temple, serving God by fulfilling their responsibilities in *religious service*.

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

Do **not** be **conformed** to this world or age. He issues a warning, or something **NOT** to do. Don't do something that **doesn't reflect** who *we truly are* in Christ! The form of the words indicates they were **doing things** they should not have been doing... already **conformed** to the world. The word for "**conformed**" can also be translated "**molded**."



Sculpt

Placed into Mold

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

We are not to be “molded” by the world but molded by the Word! Every Christian will be molded by **one or the other**. Yes, we **struggle** in life, have our **personal battles**, the **onslaught** of the lies of **satan** in the world and **more**. This *world* or better translated, “**age**” is specific in the Jewish mind.

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

Don't live the way the **world** lives. Don't **curse**. Don't be **greedy**. Don't **seek vengeance**. Don't be **unforgiving**. Don't reflect their **ungodly values**. Don't lie, cheat, steal, manipulate, control, or be controlled by others. Don't look at life, people and circumstances the way the unsaved do! Don't have the same **worldview** the world does...

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

Satan rules the hearts of *unsaved mankind!* God is in control, but the enemy has **authority** over those **outside of Christ!** This is the *spiritual warfare* we are in and it is **REAL**. Don't take things so personally when your mocked, made fun of or attacked. If you are a Christian, *living a godly life*, there will be people who won't like you...

Do I believe *God is the Creator*, or do I believe in *evolution*?

Do I believe that *life begins at conception*, based on what the *Bible* and *science* say, or do I believe *abortion is ok*?

Do I believe that *homosexuality* is ok with God, or do I believe it is a *sin that can be forgiven*?

Do I believe *pornography* is ok, or do I believe it is a *sin* that *demeans* those in the *picture* and those who *look* at it?

Do I truly believe *Jesus is the only way of salvation*, or do I believe there are *many ways to God*?

Do I believe you need works to be saved or stay saved?

A night sky filled with stars, with the silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Do I believe *socialism* is the solution to the *economic problems* we face in America or around the world?

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

By being... *transformed by the renewing of our mind* – The battle begins in our **mind**, **what** and **how** we think and the perspective through which we look at life. Our actions, words, attitude, feelings and desires **begin** in our **mind**! The Greek word for “transformed” is “**metamorphoo**,” where we get “metamorphosis” from and it means “*to change.*”

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

What is a **worldview**? *It is a set of beliefs and convictions we look through that determines our view of everything in life.* Everyone has one, whether *true or false, right or wrong.*



Daniel at 8 months.

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

Change your thinking and look at life through the *lenses of the Bible*. This is how to have a Biblical worldview. As we *change our thinking* based on God's truth, we are *transformed* and ...*prove* – test, examine or discern what God's will is. We will be able to *know what God wants us to do...*

B. 12:2 – A Transformed Life

By this we find what is... *good, acceptable, mature or perfect* – in God's sight in **EVERY** situation. The Old Testament writers used these words to describe **sacrificial animals** without defect. God's purpose, His will and His way are His best for us.