

Right Thinking Leads To Right Service

Introduction

- People's actions are a result of their thoughts & reasoning – right or wrong (Mt. 15:19). Everyone feels that they can justify their own actions (Pr. 21:2). The unbeliever makes decisions based on his/her natural understanding (senses) – spiritually dead (1Co. 2:14).
- The believer is instructed not to depend upon our natural understanding alone (Pr. 3:5). Believers have been made alive spiritually & can discern God's truth; we have actually been given the mind or understanding of Christ (1Co. 2:16)

I. Thinking About What Jesus Has Done For Me

A. The mercies of God (12:1)

“therefore” means that Paul is now looking back over the previous 11 chapters & asking believers to consider all the acts of mercy from God. Mercy means that God helped us in our misery & distress throughout life (Rom. 9:14-16, 23-24; Lam. 3:22-23). The believer can look back & remember God's mercy. **Do you remember...?**

B. The will of God (12:2)

God has chosen to reveal Himself & His will to us (Deu. 29:29). God's will reveals His plans & purpose for creation (Pr. 16:4). God's will cannot be improved upon. He reveals His will through His word, the Holy Spirit & circumstances (Eph. 1:9; Ac. 16:6-10)

C. The grace of God (12:3)

Grace means that God gave us blessings rather than the punishment that we deserved. We receive blessings because Jesus willingly took the punishment for our sins. Grace means that beginning with salvation & throughout life, we do not get what we deserve (Eph. 2:8; 3:8; 1Co. 15:10).

D. The body of Christ (12:4-5)

We have been made **one with Christ & one in Christ; joined to Christ & to each other**. At conversion, the HS places us individually in the universal body of Christ (1Co. 12:12-13, 18, 24b). Then He leads us to a local church to serve.

II. Thinking About What I Must Do For Jesus

A. The mercies of God (12:1)

*Because God has saved us out of our misery & distress of slavery to sin & continues to deliver us, we should willingly make our **bodies** available for sacrificial service – not just your money, but your time & talent [YOU]. We must be spiritual, dedicated & pleasing to God. This is reasonable & a service of worship!*

B. The will of God (12:2)

*We must resist the pressure to accept the world's thinking & opinions – from president or pope, CEO or co-worker, parents or neighbor, cult or church... God is the source of truth & true wisdom (Jas. 3:17). Our **minds** must be filled with & controlled by the word of God (Col. 3:2, 16).*

“transformed” (μεταμορφώω) means outward change – should match the will of God in the word of God.

C. The grace of God (12:3)

*Because we did not earn or merit our special skills & abilities, we must not be proud or arrogant. **God gave us our special abilities or gifts even though we were undeserving** of them. Therefore there must not be any exaggerated self-worth in ministry = **humility!***

D. The body of Christ (12:4-5)

*Because we have been joined to Jesus & each other, we are **dependent** upon Jesus & each other. We must value **diversity** in function or ministry & **unity** in our structure.*

ILL: Colleges offer students scholarships (scholastic/athletic). Businesses, hospitals & the military offer select scholarships. Each one of these sponsors is expecting some commitment & service in return – it is a **reasonable** expectation since they paid a debt the student could not pay.

APPL: The same is true for the Christian. Jesus paid a debt that we could not pay. The price He paid covered more than a few years of college, but all of eternity... Therefore it's **reasonable** for us to surrender our lives in service to Him...

CONCLUSION

We were lost, blind, deaf, dumb & dead spiritually – no one could help us & we could not help ourselves. We were slaves to sin & Satan. But because of His great love for us, God sent Jesus to live the righteous life that we could not live, to die the perfect death for our sins & to be resurrected in glory to guarantee that the debt for sin had been paid. Jesus is our Savior, Master, Lord & King. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe!

If you are not a Christian, this good news is for you. **Jesus is the Lamb of God that came to take away the sins of the world; include your sin my friend. The gospel...**

Conclude with 1Tim. 1:13b-17.

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