

Gospel Therefore

Refusing to Live Like “The Main Thing” is The Only Thing

Gospel Sacrifice: Serving God & Others

Sun, 12-Feb-2012 / Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa

**Remember—whenever you see a “therefore,”
find out what it’s there for!**

- 1. Remembering the Gospel calls for a radically,
reasonable response! (Rom. 12:1)**

Rom. 12:1 I appeal to you **therefore**, brothers, **by the mercies of God**,...

Paul reminds his readers of the mercies of God. He calls God’s Gospel goodness to center-stage as the motivating factor for what He’s about to ask them to do.

Rom. 12:1 ...to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**,...

Heb. 9:11-14 ¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² **he entered once for all into the holy places**, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ,

who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works **to serve the living God.**

Rom. 12:1 ... holy and acceptable to God, **which is your spiritual worship.**

The word translated “spiritual” is the Greek word *logikos* from which we get the English words “logic” & “logical.” This word can also be translated as “reasonable” as it’s rendered in the KJV and NKJV. The NIV, NASB, ESV, etc. simply went the extra step to apply the context of the passage and rendered it “spiritual worship.”

(Excerpts from *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 9-16* by John MacArthur, Jr., p148)

2. Rest in the Gospel, but work on your mind. We’re called to be transformed! (Rom. 12:2)

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to the image of this world, **but be transformed** by the renewal of your mind,...”

The Greek word rendered “**conformed**” is the word *suschematizo*, from which we get the English words “**scheme**.” The Greek word rendered “**transformed**” is the word *metamorphoo*, from which we get the English word “**metamorphosis**.” God is calling our outward appearance, actions, etc. to not be a poor representation of the new life within us. Instead, we’re called to complete transformational change... something completely different from our original, natural self (like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly)!

Psa. 119:11 “**I have stored** up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

Col. 3:1,2 “If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**”

It’s this mind, the mind that is being renewed constantly by God’s Spirit working through God’s Word that is pleasing to our God.

- 3. The Gospel made us a part of the family of God! Every family member has an effect on the rest of the family. (Rom. 12:4-5)**

Rom. 12:4,5 ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- 4. The same Gospel that graced us with salvation also graced us with skills, talents, abilities, and gifts... and those gifts need to be used! (Rom. 12:6)**

Rom. 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them...**

Questions for Personal/Small Group Reflection:

- (1) Can you recall a time you did something sacrificial that may have seemed foolish to the world, but was reasonable to you as a follower of Christ? (Rom. 12:1)

- (2) What are you doing to facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit in your transformational growth? (Rom. 12:2)

- (3) When something happens in life—good or bad—is your immediate, almost reflexive response one that is biblical?

- (4) Read through the list of spiritual gifts in Rom. 12:6-8. Take a look at 1 Cor. 12:7-10,28, & Eph. 4:11. Is there a gift listed there that God has given you?

- (5) Are you currently a “contributor” or a “consumer” to the church?