

December 26, 2010
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Romans 12:1-2

“Our God is an Awesome God...Worship Him!”

John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3; Is. 43:6-7; Eph. 1:12

William Temple, renowned archbishop of Canterbury, defined worship as “*quickenning the conscience by the holiness of God, feeding the mind with the truth of God, purging the imagination by the beauty of God, opening the heart to the love of God, and devoting the will to the purpose of God.*”.

Worship = ascribing _____ - _____ to someone or something; seeing someone for who they really are and giving them the honor and praise they deserve.

Worship = knowing _____ the true God really is and then giving Him _____ He wants!

I. _____ is this God that we worship? (Romans 1:1-12:1)

Therefore = based on what I just said to you (Rom. 1-11). This is the 4th “therefore” in the letter: Rom. 3:20 = condemnation; Rom. 5:1 = justification; Rom. 8:1 = assurance of no condemnation; Rom. 12:1 = dedication

I **urge** you, brethren = call alongside to help; counsel; exhort; encourage

By the **mercies** of God (see Romans 1-11; cf. John 1:1, 14)

Those who have been _____ much _____ much... (Lk. 7:47)

II. _____ kind of worship does God want from me? (Romans 12:1-2)

A. **What** – 12:1

Spiritual = logical, reasonable; became a technical word for “worship”

Present your bodies

- Present = a decisive choosing at a point in time
- Living sacrifice = an on-going commitment
- Holy = a radical departure from the normal
- Acceptable to God

B. **How** – 12:2

1. Negative command - *And do not be conformed to this world* = “Stop allowing yourselves to be molded by the influences and pressures of this present world.”

Conformed =

How does the world get into our minds / lives?

2. Positive command - *But be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind* = metamorphosis

Passive voice = “Allow God to transform your mind.”

Imperative = Command. Not an option. Although the Holy Spirit does this through the Word of God we are not entirely passive. We participate! Phil. 2:12f; 2 Thess. 2:13

Present tense = Keep on allowing God to transform your mind! The moment we stop being transformed the world will start to conform us again.

Renewing of your mind = continual refocus of the perspective of total commitment of oneself to God on the basis of His mercy.

C. **Why** – 12:2 - *So that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Prove = test a metal to see how much of it is pure and then approve it is authentic

Good = winsomeness, beauty, attractiveness

Acceptable = well-pleasing

Perfect = something that has a fulfillment of its original design (mature)

cf. Phil. 1:18-21; 3:8ff

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “worship”?
2. What impact does our understanding of WHO God is have on our worship?
3. What are some wrong views that people have of God? What happens to our worship if we have these wrong views of God?
4. How many things can you find out about God’s character and attributes in Romans 1-11? What can you find specifically about His mercy toward us?
5. What kind of worship does God want from us? See Romans 12:1-2
6. Have you made a once-for-all commitment to surrender everything to the Lord (your body)? Have you found it difficult to maintain that commitment? Why or why not?
7. How can we keep from being pressed into the world’s mold? What are some worldly things that we need to say “no” to on a regular basis?
8. How can we be transformed into the image of Jesus? What part does the Word of God play in that process? What are you doing to make sure your mind is filled with Scripture?
9. If we give ourselves to worship God 24/7, what will He do in and through us? Is that a good thing? Is that something that we desire earnestly?
10. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself as a worshiper? What steps do you need to take this week to grow as a worshiper? What can you do to stimulate others in the church to be worshipers?

[Answers to blanks: worth – ship; who; what; Who; forgiven; love; What]