

XII

Doing God's Will

ROMANS 12:2

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.

READ | ROMANS 12:2

THINK ABOUT

One of the great tragedies of our society is that we have so many people who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ, but in so many cases it doesn't seem to make any difference in their lives. That is the very antithesis of the transformation of the Gospel which Paul is presenting in chapters 12–16. Reflect on the changes the Gospel is making in your life.

Paul is urging those who are justified by faith to make the response of total consecration of their lives to the Lord. John Wesley said, "Give me 100 men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world." Do you desire to be used by God to "shake the world"?

APPLY

It is so easy to be conformed to the world. J. B. Phillips in his paraphrase writes, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its mold." What influences may be squeezing you into their mold? How will you prevent this "conforming" in your life?

The Holy Spirit through the Word of God is conforming us to be more and more like Jesus. Are you pursuing this spiritual transformation?

ASK

The apostle John tells us not to “love the world or the things in the world.” (1 John 2:15–16). Are your desires for things “of the world”? Do you take pride in your possessions and tend to define your success by the accumulation of things? This is a very real danger in our materialistic world.

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Paul is presenting a supernatural process whereby our minds are being renewed. This involves a continuous diet of the Word of God. How much time do you spend in the Word?

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Are you able to discern between good and evil? Do you find yourself routinely making foolish decisions rather than walking in the paths of righteousness? What decisions have you recently made which you believe are “good and acceptable and perfect”?

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PRAY

Lord, I confess that I often want to be like the surrounding society rather than pursuing this spiritual transformation. I ask for Your forgiveness. Give me an increased hunger for Your Word. I am now ready to love and serve You.

1 JOHN 2:15–17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

PSALM 18:30–33

This God — his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?—
the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.



SING


“Jesus, All For Jesus” — *Jennifer Atkinson, Robin Mark*

HYMN

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

— PHILIPPIANS 2:5

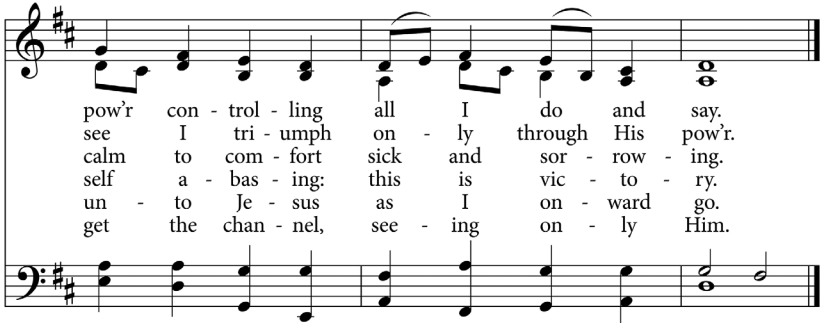
May the Mind of Christ, My Savior



1. May the mind of Christ, my Sav - ior,
2. May the Word of God dwell rich - ly
3. May the peace of God, my Fa - ther,
4. May the love of Je - sus fill me
5. May I run the race be - fore me,
6. May His beau - ty rest up - on me




live in me from day to day, by His love and
in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may
rule my life in ev - ry - thing, that I may be
as the wa - ters fill the sea. Him ex - alt - ing,
strong and brave to face the foe, look - ing on - ly
as I seek the lost to win, and may they for -



pow'r con - trol - ling all I do and say,
see I tri - umph on - ly through His pow'r.
calm to com - fort sick and sor - row - ing.
self a - bas - ing; this is vic - to - ry.
un - to Je - sus as I on - ward go.
get the chan - nel, see - ing on - ly Him.

Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925 🌿 *Tune: A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925*

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of an open book with handwritten notes on a desk. The text is centered in a white box over the book. The handwriting in the background is in cursive and includes phrases like "my dad", "around", "good", "going", and "will".

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

TITUS 2:11-14

