

ROMANS 12

THIS WEEK WE CONTINUE IN ROMANS CHAPTER 12. JOE SAID HE FINISHED SOMEWHERE IN CHAPTER 9. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DONE WITH 11 BY NOWBUT.... WE KNOW HOW ARE PASTOR IS. HA HA. BASICALLY 9-11 IS ALL ABOUT ISRAEL..JEWS AND GENTILES GETTING SAVED BY THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

SO WE PICK IT UP IN 12

Romans 12:1 New Living Translation (NLT)

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[b]

THIS IS PAUL EARNESTLY PLEADING WITH THE ROMAN CHURCH...IN VIEW OF THE MAGNIFICENCE OF GOD... IN HIS INFINIT WISDOM TO LET YOU AND I IN THE FOLD, OFFER YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD.

EXAMPLE OF BEING ON AN ALTER

YOU WILL NEVER WILLINGLY SACRIFICE ANY PART OF YOU UNLESS THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU TO DO IT....TIME SPENT IN THE WORD AND PRAYER WILL BRING THE WILLINGNESS TO DIE. EITHER THAT OR THE PAIN YOUR IN NOW FAR OUT WEIGHS THE PAIN YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN WHEN GOD BEGINS TO KILL PARTS OF YOU

THIS IS YOUR TRUE AND PROPER WORSHIP

Romans 12:2 New Living Translation (NLT)

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

THERE IS A PATTERN TO THIS WORLD. IT IS DEVISIVE,
IT IS SELFISH, IT IS GLUTTONOUS, IT IS EMPTY

WE MUST RENEW OUR MINDS IN ORDER **NOT** TO
CONFORM TO THE WORLD. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR
YOU AND I NOT TO CONFORM TO THE PATTERN
WITHOUT GOD'S WORD, HIS PRESENCE, AND HIS
DIRECTION

Romans 10:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

THE WORD, THE WORD, THE WORD !!! BREAKS THE
PATTERN !!

THEN !!! THEN YOU AND I BEGIN TO FIGURE OUT THE
PATTERN OF JESUS, THE PATTERN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND
THE PATTERN OF THE FATHER

Romans 12:3 New Living Translation (NLT)

³ Because of the privilege and authority^[a] God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.^[b]

PAUL WARNS THE BELIEVER THE DANGERS OF THINKING MORE OR LESS OF OURSELVES. WE ARE MEARLY VESSLES OF HONOR FOR OUR GOD,

Isaiah 64:6 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ We are all infected and impure with sin.

When we display our righteous deeds,
they are nothing but filthy rags.

Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall,
and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER WE ARE A ROYALTY AS WELL.

1 Peter 2:9 [Full Chapter]

But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR FEET FIRMLY PLANTED IN WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WE HAVE A JOB TO DO

Romans 12:4-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given

you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

WE ALL DON'T HAVE ALL OF THE SAME GIFTS....BUT WE ALL HAVE SOME OF THE SAME GIFTS

WHICH ONES YOU DO YOU HAVE?, PRACTICE THEM A LOT. LEARN A LITTLE AND USE IT A LOT.

SERVING, ENCOURAGING, GIVING, AND SHOWING MERCY ARE GIFTS WE SHOULD ALL BE PRACTICING DAILY

PROPHECYING, TEACHING AND LEADING ARE GIFTS THAT ARE GROWN INTO

NOW PAUL LAYS OUT WHAT IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

Romans 12:9-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection,^[a] and take delight in honoring each other.

FOUNDATIONAL !!! EVERYTHING FLOWS THROUGH THE FILTER OF LOVE. EVERYTHING HANGS OFF OF THIS COMMAND. LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I

give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD THAT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO CLIMB UP ON THE ALTER. WE MUST DIE TO PRECONCIEVED IDEAS OF "SELF" AND "RELATIONSHIPS". REMEMBER, THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN FOR ONE TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIFE FOR ANOTHER

EXAMPLE(HOW TRACY HAS ACTUALLY MADE YOU A BETTER PERSON)

Romans 12:11-13 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.^[a] ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

STAY EXCITED ABOUT YOUR SALVATION AND STAY HUNGRY FOR THE THINGS OF GOD. BE HAPPY IN KNOWING THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, ETERNITY IS SECURE FOR YOU, ADVERSITY AND TRADGEDY ARE NOT FOR NOTHING....THEY ARE USED TO MOLD YOU INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS.

DO YOU PRAY? TALKING TO GOD AND LISTENING TO HIM ARE GOING TO BE PIVOTAL IN YOUR WALK. REMEMBER TO SHUT OUT THE WORLD. GIVE HIM THE ATTENTION HE DESERVES AND WATCH YOUR PERCEPTION ON LIFE CHANGE.

PRACTICE BEING NICE !!!!

Romans 12:14 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

WAIT.....WHAT? WHAT KIND OF INSANITY IS THIS? CLIMB BACK UP ON THE ALTER COWBOY

THIS IS A PRINCIPLE THAT IS DIFFICULT. THE PAY OUT IS MASSIVE THOUGH. IT'S OUR "WAY OUT" FROM YEARS AND YEARS OF POISONOUS RESENTMENTS AND ANGER. IT'S OUR WAY OUT FROM DESTROYING RELATIONSHIP AFTER RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF WHAT "THEY" DID TO US 20 YEARS AGO OR YESTERDAY. YOU LITERALLY HAND THEM TO JESUS AND ASK GOD TO BLESS THEM. **POWERFUL**

Romans 12:15-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

BE THERE FOR PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SEXUAL PREFERENCE, EVEN IF THEY ARE A FAR LEFT LIBERAL OR A FAR RIGHT GANGSTER LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EVERYONE AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU.

WE CAN'T CONTROL OTHERS, WE CAN CONTROL HOW WE OPERATE IN RELATION TO THEM

BY REPAYING EVIL WITH GOOD WE DEFEAT THE DEVIL. WE HAVE SAID TO OURSELVES AND THE WORLD "MY GOD IS BIGGER THAN THIS" THIS PREACHES VOLUMES WITHOUT SAYING A WORD

BESIDES.....GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK

Romans 12:19-21 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,"^[a]
says the LORD.

²⁰ Instead,

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads."^[b]

²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

REMEMBER, EVERYTHING WE TALKED ABOUT TODAY GOES AGAINST THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD AND THE PATTERN OF OUR SIN NATURE. THESE ARE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES THAT WILL NOT ONLY BLESS THOSE AROUND YOU WHEN LIVED OUT.....IT WILL SET YOU FREE.. TRULY FREE FROM PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS.

YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PUT GOD FIRST TODAY, KEEP HIM THERE