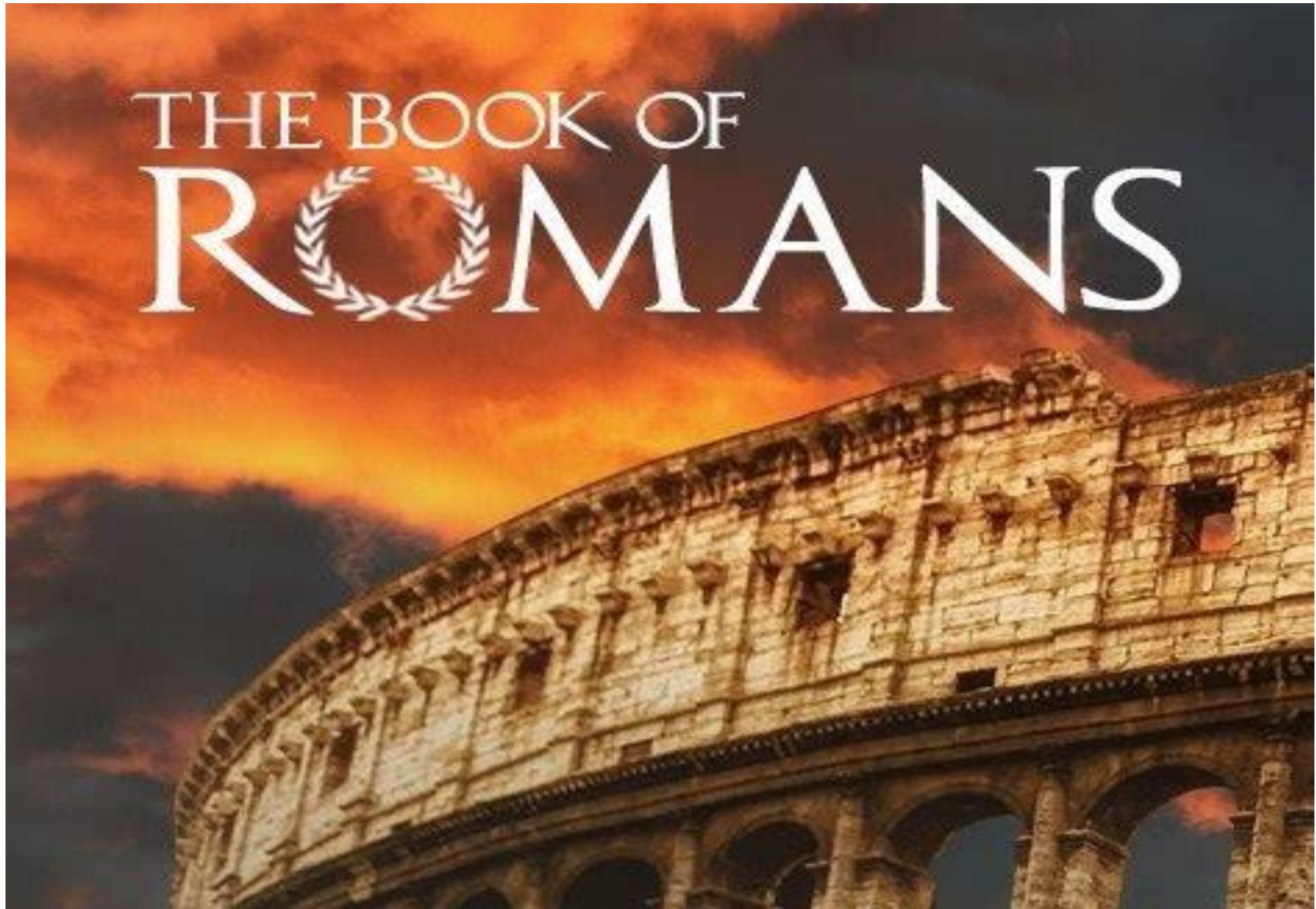
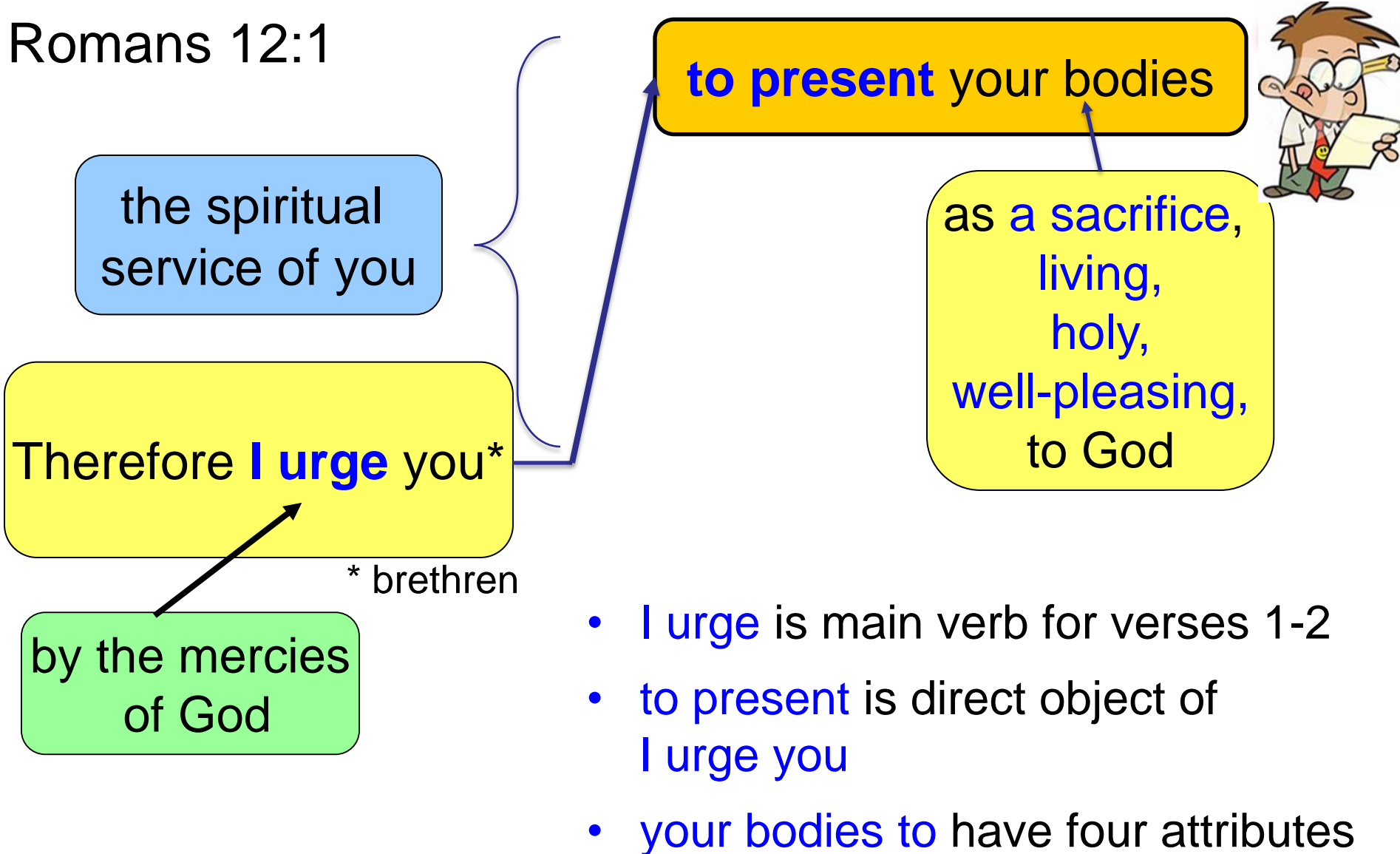


# Rom 12:2 Transformed But Not Conformed to This World



# Romans 12:1



- I urge is main verb for verses 1-2
- to present is direct object of I urge you
- your bodies to have four attributes



**:1a** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of  
God

I [Paul] **urge you brethren** - at Rome/all believers

**urge** - *parakaleo* - to call upon someone to do something  
to exhort, to beg - lit: to call to one's side

- **urge** lies between commanding and beseeching\*
- It is one of the tenderest expressions in all the Bible\*
- It is present tense which is continuous action i.e.  
continually urging the brethren
- Paul could have ordered them, but under grace, he  
chose to appeal to **by mercies of God**

Merryman

**mercies** [a noun] - *oiktirmos* - pity, compassion

- Paul now says his urging is **by means of** [*dia*] God's  
attribute of mercies/compassion
- Paul's urging is based on God's **mercies** toward man

\* Constable quoting others

**1b** to present your bodies [as] a sacrifice, living, holy,  
well-pleasing to God

Interlinear + Wallace



**to present** - *paristēmi* – to offer, to put at one's disposal,  
yield (infinitive, aorist, active)

- **To present** is a positive faith attitude that God's will is best
- We are presenting ourselves to God based on the facts of our death, burial and resurrection with Christ\* Merryman
- It [**I urge**] is receiving the action of the infinitive **to present**
- **To present is** an event [to do something] since it is aorist tense
- It is called a complimentary infinitive which completes the verb **I urge** by telling us more about it Merryman + Others
- Eph 4:1 I urge you --- to walk worthy
- 2 Cor 2:8 I urge of you --- to confirm your love to Him
- So the question is - are these one-time actions to be repeated in a believer's life?

Trying to understand the present tense verb and aorist direct object in Rom 12:1 below:



- I continually urge you to present your bodies which is by an event in your life [my version]
- So you could say this aorist event [to present] is urged continuously [present tense]
- Also in Rom 6 is a similar appeal:
- Rom 6:13b but present yourselves to God [by an event in your life] – since we are continually presenting our members to sin
- Rom 6:19b so now present your members as slaves to righteousness [by an event in your life] – since we are continually presenting our members as slaves to impurity/lawlessness
- Rom 12:1-2 gives us positive and negative instructions about presenting our bodies as does the Rom 6 passages

**1b** to present your bodies [as] a sacrifice, living, holy,  
well-pleasing to God

Interlinear + Wallace



- Paul now gives four aspects of presenting our bodies:

**1<sup>st</sup>** [as] **a sacrifice**

**sacrifice** - *thysia* - the act of sacrificing or offering –  
metaphorically of “spiritual sacrifices”

- How can **the body** become a sacrifice?\*
- Let the eye look on no evil, and it is a sacrifice
- Let the tongue utter nothing base, it is an offering
- Let the hand work no sin, and it is a sacrifice

**2<sup>nd</sup>** **living** - *zaō* - to live, be alive

- Living in contrast with the slain offerings Vincent
- God’s service is freedom, not slavery; life, not death  
Newell

\* Wuest quoting others



## What are the Church-age sacrifices?\*



**Heb 13:15** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. <sup>16</sup> And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

- We are to offer a sacrifice of praise to God through Jesus Christ
- Also doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased

**Phil 4:18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent [material goods], a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

- The material goods were an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God

**Rom 12:1** --- your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God

Praise - Purse - Person

\* McCalley

# Today's Verses

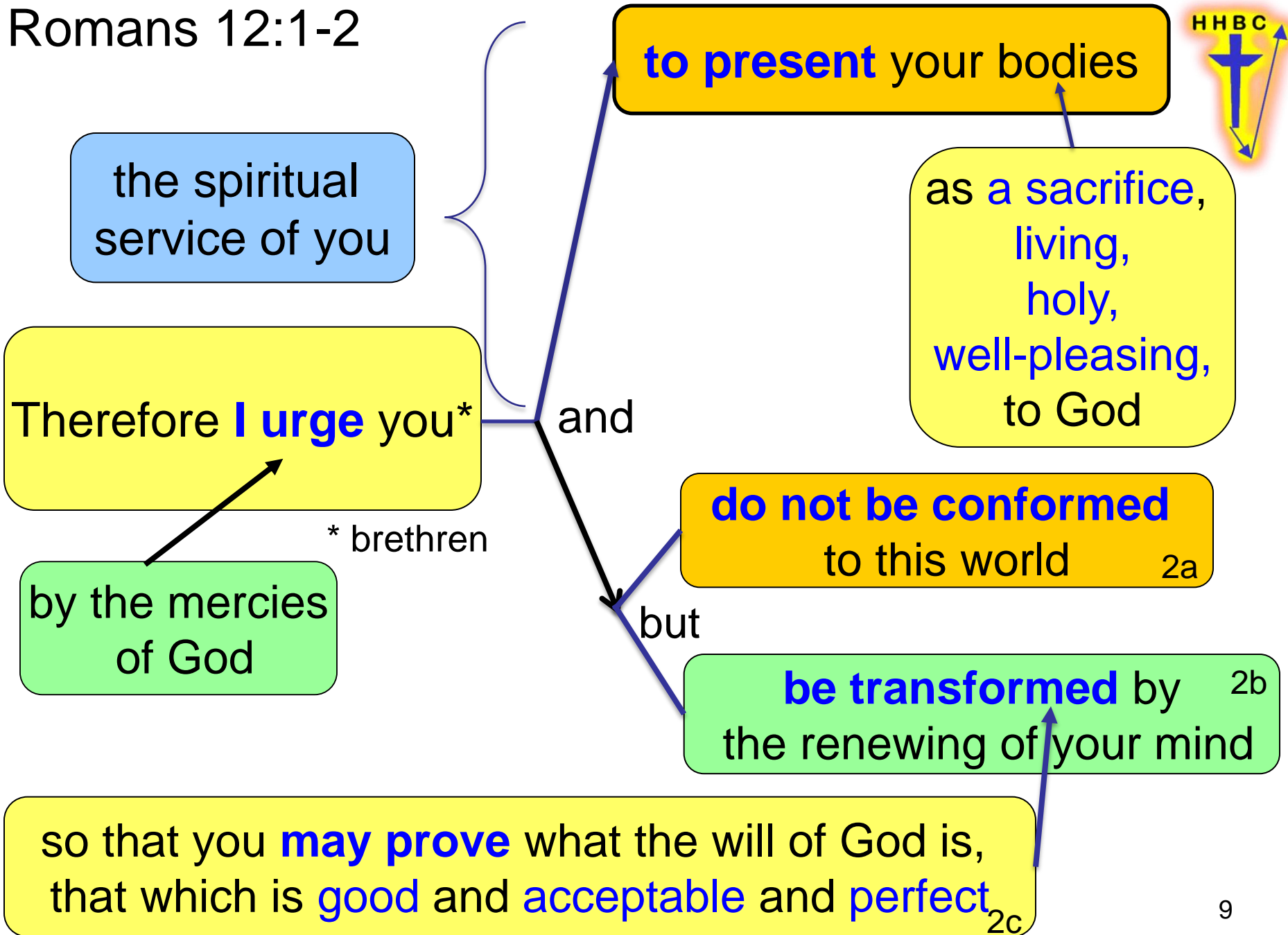


:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

:2 **And** do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



# Romans 12:1-2



:2a and do not be conformed to this world



and – connects to the main verb I urge

do not be – lit: [you] stop being

- the action is assumed to already be going on

conformed - *syschēmatizō* - to fashion or shape one thing like another – see 1 Peter 1:14  
(present, imperative, passive)

- *syschēmatizō* is the act of an individual assuming an outward expression that does not come from within him.\*
- You are continually being conformed Paul says
- So he is prohibiting something that is already going on
- Stop following the pattern of this age – more to follow
- This is God's will for you

\* Wuest

:2a and do not be conformed to this world  
to this world – *aion* - an age, a period of time



Several things can be said about this age:

- 1<sup>st</sup>** - Gal 1:4a who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age.
- The word for evil is *ponēros*. It is an evil which corrupts others.
  - It's an evil that wants to make you evil\*
  - We live in an age which seeks converts\* \*McCalley
  - Eph 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
  - Eph 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day.

:2a and do not be conformed to this world



2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 Cor 4:4 in whose case **the god of this world** [age] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- Satan is the god of this world [age] who disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Cor 11:14

3<sup>rd</sup> - Matt 13:22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the Word, and **the worry of the world** [age] and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- So the worry of this age can choke out God's word
- Next, not being conformed to this world [age] by itself is not sufficient; you must be transformed

McCalley

:2b but be transformed by the renewing of your mind



but – *alla* – strong contrast

[you] **be transformed** – *metamorphoō* - to change into another form [*meta*, “change,” and *morphē*, “form”] - present, imperative, passive (4x in NT)

- Paul is not saying that we can transform ourselves – because we cannot\*
- But we can allow God’s Word to do its work in our minds
- **Be transformed** [*metamorphoō*] can refer to a change in two ways:\*
- **#1** - A change that is outwardly visible that is coming from the person within:\*
- Matt 17:2 And He **was transfigured** before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

\* McCalley

:2b but be transformed by the renewing of your mind  
more on being transformed:



- #2 - An inward change that is invisible to the eye\*

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- God is revealing the glory of Christ to us via His Word\*
- As we behold Christ's glory by faith, God shares Christ's glory with us\*
- Throughout the change process we represent & manifest the very character of Christ (His love, joy, patience, etc.)\*
- **From glory to glory** - in ever increasing amounts of Christ's glory\*
- Then God manifests Christ's glory through us as His representative to reveal Christ's glory to others\*



:2b but be transformed by the renewing of your mind



Next we are told how this is to come about:

by the renewing of your mind

by the – definite article – has the idea of entirety

renewing – *anakainōsis* - a renewing or a renovation  
which makes a person different than in the past

- Thayer defines the word, as a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better.

of your mind

mind - *nous* - the faculty of knowing, the seat of the  
understanding

1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord ---  
but we have the mind of Christ.

:2b but be transformed by the renewing of your mind



more on **renewing of your mind**:

- Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and **renewing** by the Holy Spirit.
- Salvation is by **regeneration** [new birth] and **renewing** by the Holy Spirit – freed from the penalty of sin
- In our Christian walk, we are being freed from the power of sin by being **transformed** by the **renewing** of our mind by the Holy Spirit
- Paul is exhorting the saints here to stop masquerading in the clothing of the world, and instead to yield themselves to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who will gradually produce in them the mind of Christ

edited Wuest

:2c so that you may prove what the will of God is

so that – with a purpose that

you may prove what the will of God is

prove – *dokimazo* – to put to the test for purpose of approval

- McCalley says it is “that you may determine what the will of God is.”
- As a result of the Spirit's control of the mental processes of the saint, the latter is enabled to put his life to the test for the purpose of approving it.\*
- When the saint in dependence upon the Spirit renovates his mental processes, the result will be that he will prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.\*

\* Wuest



:2d that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



These words all modify or describe “the will of God”:

the good - *agathos* - good in its character or constitution

- The neuter of the adjective with the definite article signifies that which is "good," lit., "the good," as being morally honorable, pleasing to God, and therefore beneficial

Vine

[the] acceptable - *euarestos* - well-pleasing, acceptable

Used with reference to God, that which  
God wills and recognizes

Zodhiates

[the] perfect - *téleios* - finished, that which has reached its end; hence, complete, full, wanting in nothing

Wuest



## Moses with veiled face vs. We with unveiled face

- Moses :

- God's glory reflected in Moses' face was fading after he talked to the Israelites
- Moses veiled his face to hide the fading glory
- He then went back into the tent to restore the reflected glory
- Moses' glory was external & temporary (removed from source - the glory fades)

- You and Me

- Our face is unveiled to show the ever-increasing glory of Christ as we behold Him objectively and then subjectively
- The source of our glory is internal and permanent (the source cannot be removed)