

In a Word – Renew – Romans 12:2

Introduction

- Happy New Year!
 - It is a mark or milestone, for many, it is considered a new beginning
 - For some, considered a time for a re-start or renewal
- Renew Defined:
 - To make like new, to restore to freshness, vigor, or perfection, to make something old new
 - To make new spiritually
 - To begin again, resume an activity once abandoned
- Author C. S. Lewis said, "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

I. Renewal Must Include Transformation

- a. The renewing or changing of the mind

(1) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1–3)

- b. "Seek those things which are above"
 - i. This is a refocus, a redirection of the things pursued, from the temporal to the eternal
- c. "Set your mind on things above" – become spiritually minded
 - i. Come to realize that all I know, have, and see is temporary
- d. Why? "For you died" – what do you mean I died?

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For he who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:4, 7)

- i. So having been reborn through the Gospel, our minds are to be transformed
- e.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

- f. "And do not be conformed to this world"
 - i. The word conformed means to behave according to socially acceptable conventions or standards.
 - ii. We know that all things socially acceptable are not spiritually acceptable
 - 1. Language, social drinking, casual drug use, immorality, indecency

Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

- iii. We know that all things religious are not acceptable to God
 - 1. Will worship – choosing worship styles to suit my personal preferences
 - 2. Following certain religious traditions not supported by the scriptures

And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ” (Matthew 15:9)

- iv. We must always look to the scriptures for guidance to those things acceptable to God
- v. To be conformed to this world means I have been shaped inwardly and outwardly by society's values, ideas or standards
- vi. “And do not be conformed to this world”
- g. “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”
 - i. Transform means to change one's inner character, condition or nature
 - ii. The word “renewing” would seem to indicate a continuation of renewal, used as a verb, a process of renewal
 - iii. I will learn new things, change the way I think about things in the coming year
 - iv. By continuing to seek the truth, looking into God's word, the transformation continues
 - v. Through daily prayer and study, guidance by the Holy Spirit, a continued renewal

II. In Order to be Renewed Some Things Must Be Left Behind

- a. When renewing a piece of furniture, the old finish must be removed
 - i. To renew one's health, old bad habits must be abandoned, replaced with new ones
- b. The Apostle Paul said...

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead... (Philippians 3:13)

- c. Any time I move ahead, I advance forward, something must be left behind
 - i. When a young person graduates or leaves home (safety, security, parents)
 - ii. When a person retires from a job (routine, purpose, security)
 - iii. When a person dies, things are left behind, family, friends, possessions, works
 - iv. In order to be renewed spiritually, there are some things that have to be left behind
 - v. Let's return to Colossians Chapter 3...

(1) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1–3)

(5) Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (6) Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience... (Colossians 3:5–6)

(8) But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds... (Colossians 3:8–9)

- d. Just as the furniture refinisher strips away the old paint, we must do away with this behavior
 - i. Look at verse 7 again...

In which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. (Colossians 3:7)

- ii. Notice these things are past tense, they no longer belong in the Christians life
- iii. Ephesians 4:22 calls this “former conduct”

(22) That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22–24)

- iv. So leaving these things behind we consider that...

II. In Order to Be Renewed Somethings Must Be Added

- a. So leaving our former conduct...

(12) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (Colossians 3:12–13)

- b. Above all, we must add the greatest emotion of all

(14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (Colossians 3:14–15)

- i. Love, called here the “bond of perfection” the glue of spiritual maturity that holds us close to God and the church

(2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:2–3)

- ii. We can’t speak about the peace of God without thinking of Philipians 4

(6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6–7)

iii. “called into one body”

1. If we put this all together, leaving the bad things behind, adding the good things as individuals, and when those individuals who possess these good traits come together...
2. We wind up with a body of believers (church) that leave selfishness behind, who place God first, and who serve Christ and others. A church based on love for God and a love for their neighbor.
3. And this is truly something to be thankful for.

c. Renewal through worship

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

- i. We cannot express the importance of regular worship and time spent with the church

d. When we are renewed through Christ, it will affect every aspect of life

- i. As Israel was instructed in Deuteronomy...
 1. Teach your children diligently
 2. When you sit in your house, walk by the way, lie down, rise up
 3. You’ll write them on your doorpost and gates

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)

- e. All of us can use some renewal in our lives.