

“Do Not Be Conformed to the [Religious] World” (Part 2 of 3).....by: John Jones
 This is a continuation of last week’s article, digging deep into Romans 12:2, what it meant for the first Christians to read it, and what it means to us. Have a blessed week in your study of God’s Word!
 The Literary Context of Romans 12

For obvious reasons, Paul spends considerable time in the book of Romans reconciling the brethren in Rome. His letter begins with passages like 1:16, 2:9-11, and 3:9, 29-30 which remind the brethren that: the stain of sin has affected ALL mankind, ALL mankind will be judged according to their works, and fortunately, the saving gospel of Jesus is also for ALL mankind. Spiritually speaking, “There is no distinction between Jew and Greek” (3:22; 10:12).

Therefore the spiritual realities of: baptism (Romans 6:1-11), the release of the Jews from the Mosaic law that bound them to sin (Romans 7), and the promises of the Spirit (Romans 8) all serve to bring the Jewish and Gentile believers together into a new category: those who have responded to God’s call through faith in Jesus. Chapter 1:18-32 focuses on “them,” the Gentiles with no regard for God. Chapters 9-11 focus on “them,” the Jews who haven’t accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Chapter 12, however, begins with an appeal to the Christians in Rome. Unlike the hedonistic Gentiles and the self-righteous Jews, the Christians ought to recognise the disobedience of all mankind, and the greatness of God for giving the opportunity of mercy to both Jew and Gentile (11:30-36). This discussion provides the immediate literary context for Romans 12:1-2.

To summarise Paul’s argumentation, it’s almost as if he’s saying, “Enough talking about ‘them.’ Let’s talk about ‘you’ Christians. You’re all from different backgrounds, but you’ve found a new identity in Christ. Forget the past. Whether it be the sensuality you formerly knew, or your supposed self-sufficiency in observing the law, you’ve all died to your former lives, and now you know that God’s mercy comes through Jesus.”

A Closer Examination of Romans 12:2

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.

How would the early Roman church have read this passage?

Romans 12:1 urges the Christians “to present [their] bodies a living and holy sacrifice.” It’s within the context of the epistle to suppose that this passage might have been presented to the Gentile Christians and their previous lives of sensuality. 12:2, however, is likely directed to the Jewish Christians who risked conforming their minds to a worldview that allowed no room for a crucified Savior from Nazareth.

The Jewish Christians could be encouraged by this passage to use the available evidence (the Old Testament scriptures- Acts 17:1-2 and apostolic signs- 2 Cor. 12:12) to prove that: faith in Jesus, as opposed to faith in the observance of the law, is actually God’s will. Subsequently, the inclusion of the Gentiles into the family of God was also part of God’s plan (Eph. 2:11-22). By accepting these things, the first readers of this epistle wouldn’t be moulded by the societal or religious status quo of first century diaspora Judaism, but instead would be transformed, together with their Gentile brethren, into the “body of Christ” (Rom. 12:5).

Applying Romans 12:2 Today

Since we’ve answered the question, “What did this passage mean to them?,” we can now ask, “What should it mean to us?”

Despite the differences between the first and the twenty first century church, there are notable similarities between our churches and theirs. For one, division in the church is still a significant issue. Despite Jesus’ plea for unity among believers (John 17:20-23), there are more denominations than ever before in church history. The “World Christian Encyclopedia” by Barrett, Kurian, and Johnson (Oxford Univ Press, 2nd edition, 2001) counts as many as 33,820 Christian denominations. Paul’s exhortation “to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus” (Romans 15:5) is completely applicable to contemporary church culture defined by differences.

The widespread division between churches raises another similarity between the modern and early Christians: **falsehood taught under religious pretext.** The third and final portion of this article & the answers to follow!!

On Our Prayer List... **Becky Palk**-home recovering fr back surg / **Kathy Martin**-requesting prayers / **Linda Rodgers/Hattie Tate**
Betty Rumsey-outpt procedure on 10/22 **Mary Lana Adams**-now in Rehab @ Horizon ,Rm 13
Faye Featherstone/ Earline Davis/ Michelle Lashlee/ Dorothy Killebrew/W. R. Long /Jim Buckner/ Al & Vicki Peek

***Doug Stewart** (Ruby England’s stepson) now on hospice in AHC in Waverly .
***Marcia Simpson**-needs prayers in Sarah Cannon Hosp with many medical issues
***Neely Ann Martin**-(Jerry & Kathy’s granddaughter) continue in prayer, still having issues/struggles fr her recent trauma; which involved a concussion & fractured jaw
***Pam Forster**-(Leanne & Gail’s cousin) recovering fr shoulder surg
***Chase Lewis**-(Vicki Peek’s family) he has lupus, been very sick
***Ralph Simpson**-several medical problems
***Frank Gugelchuk**-(Michelle Lashlee’s dad)heart issues
***Alyssa Gold**-(Robert Proctor’s niece) in need of prayers
***John Henry & Carlene Davis / Larry Fuqua** (Kathy Martin’s brother
***Linda Burns** (Mike Burns sister-in-law) /**Bubba Tummins**(Bo & Amy’s bro
***Faye Hooper**— medical problems ***Jeannie Belles**
***Faye Marshall**-Traci Adams mom ***June Dreaden**-S. Rachford’s mom
***Doug Simpson**-(Ruby England’s brother) heart problems
***Nancy Turner**-continues to need prayers
***Shane Cobb** ***Rebecca Davis**

THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER
***Kenny Fleming**- cancer meds
***Jimmy Phy**-treatments
***DONNA BURNS**-(WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN’S NIECE)-CA
***Wanda Dobbins**-(kin to Tyler’s) terminal CA
***Chris McCurley**-prostate cancer
***Jackie Borders**- Lauren Stuart’s mom
***Ranae Duncan**-(Bo&Amy’s neighbor)-CA treatments
***Casey Vailes**-(Ranae Duncan’s son)also has cancer
***Barry Dean**-grandfather of a friend of Rachel Bell’s
***Larry Hayes**-(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo
***Maggie Wright**-(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo
***David Stokes**-(Drew Swearns) step-dad
***Stephanie Smith** ***Kenna Rickdenbrode**
***Clay Crafton**-(Kathy Martin’s nephew) CA has returned
***Sharon Curtis**
***Matthew Wright**-(brother to Barbara Good) Lung CA

ASSISTED LIVING & NURSING HOME
AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-**Wyle Marshall** (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad
Humphreys County-104 Forte Hill Road, Waverly, TN 37185- **Billy Adams**-Rm 712

NHC-**Jim Buckner**-(Rm 320) **Earline Davis**-(Rm 103) **JoAnn Haley**-(Rm)**Doris Stokes**-Rm 127
 812 N. Charlotte, Dickson, TN 37055
Magnolia Place -811 W. Main St. Waverly, TN 37055-

MILITARY
Dustin Proctor-
 (Navy-Japan)
 PCS 562 Box 7273,
 FPO AP 96311-0073
Dalton & Hope Palk
 - (Navy-Louisiana)
 500 Woodland Dr, Apt 597
 New Orleans, LA 70131

AT HOME: **JANE RIDINGS**-172 Indian Creek Rd/HERBERT CAPPIS-1400 Bradley Rd/ELTON SMITH-7731 Hwy 70 East

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

It’s that time again; Our “Truck or Treat” outreach to the Community is on Thursday, Oct 31st from 6:00-7:30 PM Trunk sign-up list in foyer- please be bringing candy for kiddos. Thanks

Our sympathy & prayers to the family of “Jamie Grace”, she was an 18 yr old cousin to the Peytons who passed away suddenly last week. Her service was held on Oct 20th @ Hendersonville COC.
 Continued prayers for the Vaughn & Simpson families in their recent losses.

Baby Sprinkle for Brooke Davis Palk Sunday, Oct 27th, 2:00-3:30 PM, downstairs. All are invited! Registered @ Babylist.com & Trull Pharmacy.

Teachers & Prospective Teachers meeting on Sunday, Oct 27th @ 4:45 in the fellowship room.

231 Trash Pick-Up on Sat, November 9th. Meet here at the building @ 7:30 am

PEW PACKERS: To restart on Nov 10th. This will be a regular Sunday night activity starting @ 5:45, for all children or the young @ heart Will include singing, Bible memory & of course fun!!

I.N.F.O.C.U.S. Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

What a Weekend!!!! It was a blessing to be able to be a part of our Fall Family Retreat again this year. We had a group of 41 sign up with some staying overnight for both nights and some that only came for one of the days. Either way, we all had a great time and enjoyed a beautiful weekend. We arrived Friday around 5:00, got unpacked and started preparing for supper. After supper we enjoyed a great time of devotion together of singing and a lesson from John Potter. Afterwards, we enjoyed some board games and time to relax and fellowship. Saturday we woke to a great breakfast. After breakfast we enjoyed a day of 3 devotional periods, several games of volleyball, more great meals, trivia night and college football watching. Saturday was the perfect day and I’m so thankful for the memories that were made. Sunday we had breakfast followed by our worship service together. Afterwards, we packed up, cleaned up, and headed home. Thank you to everyone that came, especially to those who worked hard to prepare our meals and for the men who spoke during our devotionals. So much fun and growth was had with some great people!!
 Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, October 27th 2024

WelcomeCalvin Buckner
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Barry Phy
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Keith Grigsby
 Wayne Coates Drew Buttrey
 Marvin England Robert Proctor
 Ty Adams Jack Grigsby
Closing Prayer.....Danny Dotson
Collect Cards.....Parker Rachford
 &Collin Swearns
Greeters..... Not at this time
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #1

Sunday 6PM, October 27th 2024

Lead Singing..... Mark Forster
Prayer.....Andrew Peyton
Sermon..... John Jones
Lord's Table.....Todd Mullinicks
 Mike Tyler
Closing Prayer.....Jesse Kilpatrick

Wednesday 6:30 PM, October 30th 2024

Lead Singing.....John Hurt
Prayer.....Mike Robertson
Adult Class.....John Jones

If you are unable to serve...please contact
 Wade Tummins, in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)
 If changes need to be made in scheduling please
 contact Jimmy Phy.

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Return Service Requested

*If you are unable to attend
 any service please tune in to
 our Facebook page or our
 YouTube page to watch the
 services. This is NOT a replacement for the
 command to assemble together as Christ's
 Body, but a tool for those who may be
 homebound/shut-in or sick.

The MESSENGER is online!
Visit the church website
to view!



OUR RECORDS for 10/20/2024

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	90
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	151
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	92
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	135
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$ 7279
Number of Seeds Planted	-----	1



The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of October 20th 2024

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

Christ's Commission – {Our Mission}

To Contact Us:
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Website: www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com
 Phone: 931-582-6130

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
 Worship..... 10:00am
 Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study..... 6:30pm

Elders:

James Buckner	Calvin Buckner
Billy Buttrey	Bruce Mayfield
W.R. Long	Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman	Mike Burns
Wayne Coates	Mark Forster
John Hurt	Barry Phy
Robert Proctor	James Ridings
Elton Smith	Joe Smith
Dwight Stuart	Drew Swearns
Dennis Tester	Ethan Tummins
Wade Tummins	Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

Ministers ----- Every Member
 Pulpit ----- John Jones
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby

Secretaries

Terri Tummins/Teresa Fleming