

1 Appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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. 3 Gifts of grace are given to us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts

that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: 7 if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 8 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 9 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; 10 the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with gentleness. 11 Let us love one another in showing honor, 12 as showing honor to the Lord. 13 Do not be slothful in zeal; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. 14 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 15 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

them. 16 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 17 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 18 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 19 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live

THEREFORE, LIVING IN LIGHT OF TRUTH

peaceably with all men, if it is in the Lord's will. 20 Do not avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord." 21 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will

turning deals on his head." 22 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

INTRODUCTION

“Let me see clearly so that I may take in the amazing things coming from Your law .”

Psalm 119:18 (THE VOICE)

We’re excited to bring you a new issue of *Recharge* for this fall. Some of you have mentioned that you have missed having this over the summer. I’m sorry that we didn’t have an issue for the sermon series this summer, but I am happy that you missed it! It is our prayer that these little booklets will be your a companions to you in your daily devotions, as well as give you a place for notes from Sunday morning and your community group studies.

We try to be very strategic in the developmental process for all these studies. What we focus on in the Sunday morning sermon will be expounded upon in the *Recharge* books and community group studies. It is true that we learn through repetition, but that’s not exactly the goal in doing this. When each of these reinforce the other, it allows us to experience different levels of comprehension, which increases our overall understanding of Scripture and deepens our spiritual growth!

It is God’s plan for your life to be transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul told us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (4:15). The combined efforts of listening to the weekly message, participating in the weekly community groups and working through the studies in this booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The Book of Romans is “the most formal and systematic of Paul’s epistles. The main theme of Romans is that righteousness comes as a free gift of God and is receivable by faith alone...”

“The great theme of Romans is God’s power to save. The Romans understood power; when Paul wrote this epistle to the capital of the ancient world, Rome ruled supreme. The gospel, however, is nothing to be ashamed of in comparison; for it, too, is power—indeed the ‘power of God to salvation for everyone’ (1:16). In the gospel both Jews and Gentiles find access to God, not on the basis of human achievement, but because of God’s free grace bestowed on those who accept it in faith.” (Excerpt from *Nelson’s Student Bible Dictionary*)

NEW SERMON SERIES IN ROMANS 12

The twelfth chapter of this book is where Paul starts focusing on the more practical application of the truth in the previous chapters. We will spend eleven weeks (September 10th through November 19th) studying through this chapter.

One of the most notorious aspects of its literary structure is the placement of the word “therefore” in verse 1. This happens in other passages of Scripture, but none is as famous as Romans 12:1. Any time you see the word “therefore” in the Bible, you must discover what it is there for! In this instance, Paul is transitioning from sections that expound on the theological basis of salvation and the Christian life to this new section on the practical application of these truths.

This is why this sermon series is called: “THEREFORE, Living in Light of Truth.” Over the next eleven weeks, we will examine the practical application of Paul’s theology in day-to-day life. Our goal is to give you a clear portrayal of what it means to live life as a follower of Christ, and help you realize that these things in Romans 12 are not just ideas about what you might try to do as a believer but expectations of those who have trusted in Christ as their Savior.

For some of you, a study in the Book of Romans will feel familiar, but for others, this may be the first time you’ve spent any dedicated time in this book. This presented a challenge to us for this series. If the twelfth chapter of Romans is the practical application of all that came

before it in the book, what if you don't know what they rest of the book has to say? How can you "live in light of truth" if you don't know what that truth is? That's where this book comes to the rescue!

FALL 2023 RECHARGE STUDIES

This issue of *Recharge* is designed to provide you with foundational knowledge that you need to be able to obey the truths of Romans 12. In this issue, we will be studying and SOAPing through Romans 6-8. Often referred to as the most complete treatment in Scripture on what the Christian life ought to look like, this study through Romans 6-8 will help provide you with the info you need to apply the truths of chapter 12.

As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
(Several have requested more writing room for sermon notes. Others have requested less sermon so that their notes would fit the space. We have opted for more space rather than less sermon. 😊)
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP Journal through the passages that parallel the passage from our weekly sermon text. Instructions for SOAP Journaling and a Table of Contents for your journal entries are located on pages 66-67.
- And two studies each week from Romans chapters 6-8 and chapter 12, that have been adapted from Timothy Keller's devotional, *Explore the Book: 90 Days in John 14-17, Romans and James*.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Peculiar**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-2

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Romans 1-5 tells us what God has accomplished for us in the gospel; chapters 6-8 tell us what God will accomplish in us through the gospel. What question does Paul ask to start this section? How does he answer his question? How does he say this is possible? (Romans 6: 1-2)

Read Romans 6:3-5. In these verses, Paul uses the phrase "baptized into Christ Jesus" to refer to conversion. What do these verses teach about what happened when you became a Christian?

These verses teach that because we are now in Christ, we can live a life free from habitual sin if we choose to obey. Is there an area of your life where you are in danger of "living in sin"? Will you confess that to God in prayer right now?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 6:6-7. If you are a Christian, what has happened to the old "you"?

Paul refers to the "old self" and the "body of sin" in verse 6. The "old self" refers to me before I became a Christian, but the "body of sin" refers to the sin that still exists in our lives. What does God want to happen in regard to the "body of sin" in our lives?

Read Romans 6:8-14. What do we know lies ahead of us, and why (v.8-9)? According to verse 11, how should we respond to the truths in verses 8-10?

What does this mean we must not do; and what does it mean we must do (v.12-13)?