



1



2

*Romans 12*

"1 I urge you therefore, 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, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

**Wise decisions come from:  
Respecting God and His Gospel,  
by responding to the Cross  
of Christ through the  
grace planted  
within us.**

3

*Romans 12*

"1 I urge you **therefore**, 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.

"therefore"  
"because of" - the grace of God explained in ch.1-11.

1.  
**Wise decisions come from seeing God's  
graciousness and responding to it.**

**Decisions are too often based on:  
fear, shame, duty, & tradition,  
rather than seeing who  
we are "in Christ".**

4

*Romans 12*

"1 I **urge** you therefore, 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.

"urge"  
"call" - not "command" or "demand"

2.  
**Wise decisions are a free choice that  
involves commitments and discipline.**

**Believers are "free" to make foolish  
decisions, but are "urged" to avoid them.**

5

*Romans 12*

"1 I urge you therefore, **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.

"brethren"

3.  
**Wise decisions are necessary to access eternal  
"abundant" life experiences to believers  
and to make them salt and light  
in this world.**

**Paul is challenging believers to "cash in"  
on the benefits of life "in Christ".**

6

*Romans 12*

"<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, 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**."

"service of worship"

4.

Wise decisions are a **worship response** to God.

They are not a "means to" or "notarization of" salvation (justification / sanctification), but a **natural response to what God has done, and who He has created us to be, from the beginning.**

7

*Romans 12*

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

"conformed" - "shaped by" - adopting worldly values

"transformed" - "metamorphosis" - complete life change

"renewing" - "way of viewing" - how we see things

"prove" - "verification" - tested and proven to be true

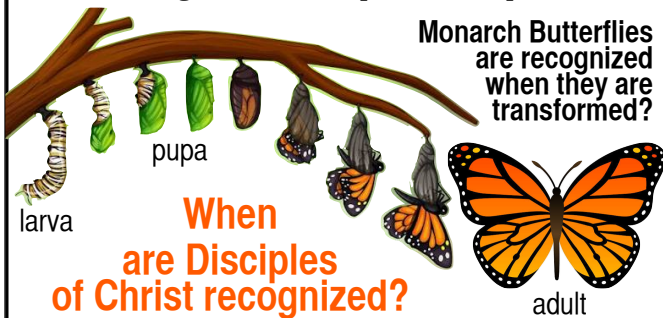
5.

Wise decisions are linked to a **"mindset"** that sees God and self **"in Christ"**.

8

*Romans 12*

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



9

"In the end, dear friend, **it is always between us and God, not between us and them.**"

"Three things I can't change: **the past, the truth, & you.**"



Mother Teresa

By the grace of God, we can only be changed by yielding ourselves to Christ.



Anne Lamott

10

**Shame & Suffering can be Berean's spiritual hearing aids**

**creating an appetite for life, hope, and freedom**

**that this broken world cannot satisfy.**



11

*Romans 12*

"<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, 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. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

How we **DECIDE** and **BEHAVE**

*Romans 12:1*  
"by the mercies of God"

How we **SEE THINGS**

**Our MINDSET**

How we **SELF TALK**

*Romans 12:2*  
"do not be conformed to this world"

12

The greatest lies are those that we tell  
**TO OURSELVES** about God, ourselves, and life.

*Proverbs 9:10*

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."**

• **Eve illustrates this.**

*Genesis 3:6*

"When the woman **saw that the tree was good** ... she took from its fruit and ate;"  
She heard two voices but listened to only one.



• **Jesus teaches us this.**

*Matthew 6*

"22 The lamp of the body is the eye; **if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.** 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

• **Paul reminds us of this.**

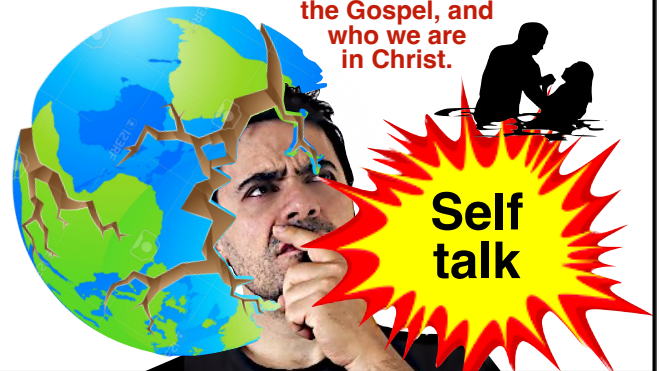
*Romans 8*

"5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 **For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,**"

13

## Navigating life's negatives

The key is how we see and talk to ourselves about God, the Gospel, and who we are in Christ.



14

*We will not make wise decisions until we:*

**STOP** looking for "abundant life" in anything outside faith in Christ and:

- **take our baptism seriously.**

- start talking to ourselves through our "new self" in Christ.
- stop listening to our "old self" in the flesh,
- get out from under the Law Cov.



15

*Ephesians 4*

"20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Physical birth

Spiritual birth

STOP listening to the flesh



START listening to the Spirit

16

Clear eyes lead to Wisdom

The Image of God in believers is possible when they step aside

Get over yourself

Give yourself

The Image of God is displayed in this life through peace & love.

The image of God is seen in Christ and his indwelling Spirit

Accept yourself

The Image of God is implanted in us and makes abundant life available to us.

Know yourself



17

## Decision making



18