

A SCRIPTURAL CHARGE TO GOD’S PEOPLE

Scripture: Romans 12:1, 2

Introduction:

- A. The word “therefore” is used to cause us to reflect on what has already been said.**
- B. The first eleven chapters make up that to which Paul wants them to remember.**
 - 1. He began this letter by introducing the gospel of Jesus Christ as the basis of the whole book.**
 - 2. He then pointed out the sinful condition of the whole world in turning against God and their need of the gospel.**
 - 3. He then declared Jesus Christ to be the only way for the sinner to be justified before God.**
 - 4. He set forth the truth of our being delivered from the power of sin by our union with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection.**
 - 5. He then set forth the special position each member of a New Testament church has with Jesus Christ – symbolically; this church is joined to Christ Jesus to bear fruit for the Father.**
 - 6. Then Paul called attention to a condition we all wrestle with – that is our bodies are a constant battleground in the struggle between the old natural man and the new spirit man. Paul confessed that he had this problem and that it made him feel wretched, but that in time Jesus would deliver us from the body of this death.**
 - 7. Then Paul pointed out how we can win the victory over the flesh by giving the Spirit control over our lives.**
 - 8. Then in chapter 8 he took special care to assure us that nothing could separate us from the Love of God and that we could never lose our salvation.**
- C. In chapter 9 he stops to inform us that “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not.”**
- D. This was done lest someone ask, “What about Israel? God cast them off”**
 - 1. God did cast off the national of Israel because of idolatry.**
 - 2. But individual Israelites who had been saved were not cast away.**

3. And the nation of Israel will one day be brought back, and multitudes will be saved.

E. This brings us to our text verse and with all these mercies of God in mind, let us proceed to the Scriptural Charge to Us who make up this church.

I. LEARN THAT THE MERCIES OF GOD ARE THE BASIS OF GOD'S APPEAL.

- A. Mercies in caring for us when we didn't care for Him and were lost on our road to hell.**
- B. Mercies in saving our hell bound souls when we repented toward God and trusted Jesus to save us.**
- C. Mercies in keeping us from falling; even when we give Him very little of our time.**

II. LEARN WHAT IS GOD'S APPEAL TO EACH MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH.

- A. To present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto Him. That simply means that we spend our lives in serving God – not self.**
- B. To make sure that living sacrifice is holy – pure.**
- C. And be not conformed to this world. Don't follow the world pattern in dress, in language, in habits, in interests.**
- D. Be transformed , that is let your dress, your habits, your language, your interests be other than the world.**

III. LEARN THAT RENEWING OUR MINDS IS THE KEY TO OUR BEING ABLE TO FULFILL GOD'S WILL IN OUR LIVES.

- A. No person will ever present his body a living, holy sacrifice unto God until his mind is renewed.**
- B. So long as we conform to this world, we will never present our bodies unto God.**
- C. What we do is what we think -- and what we think is what we feed our minds.**
- D. The Bible declares "As a man thinking in his heart, so is he."**
- E. If we are ever to please God, we must change our mind food. We must follow the challenge of the little child's song – O be careful little eyes what you see – little ears what you hear.**
- F. So long as the mind's diet remains the same, we will conform to the world.**
- G. Only when we change what we feed the mind through the eyes and the ears will our lives be transformed and thereby prove to**

ourselves and to others what is the good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

IV. LEARN THAT WHAT GOD HAS ASKED OF US IS ONLY REASONABLE.

- A. Only an unreasonable person can consider all that God has done for us and think that God is being unreasonable in asking us to give our best to Him.**
- B. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world:, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect , will of God.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let each of us ask self, Does my life reflect what I want people to think of my God.**
- B. Are there changes that I need to make in my life style to bring about a renewing of my mind?**
- C. Let each of us thank God for His mercies and ask Him for strength to change our lives to conform to His will.**