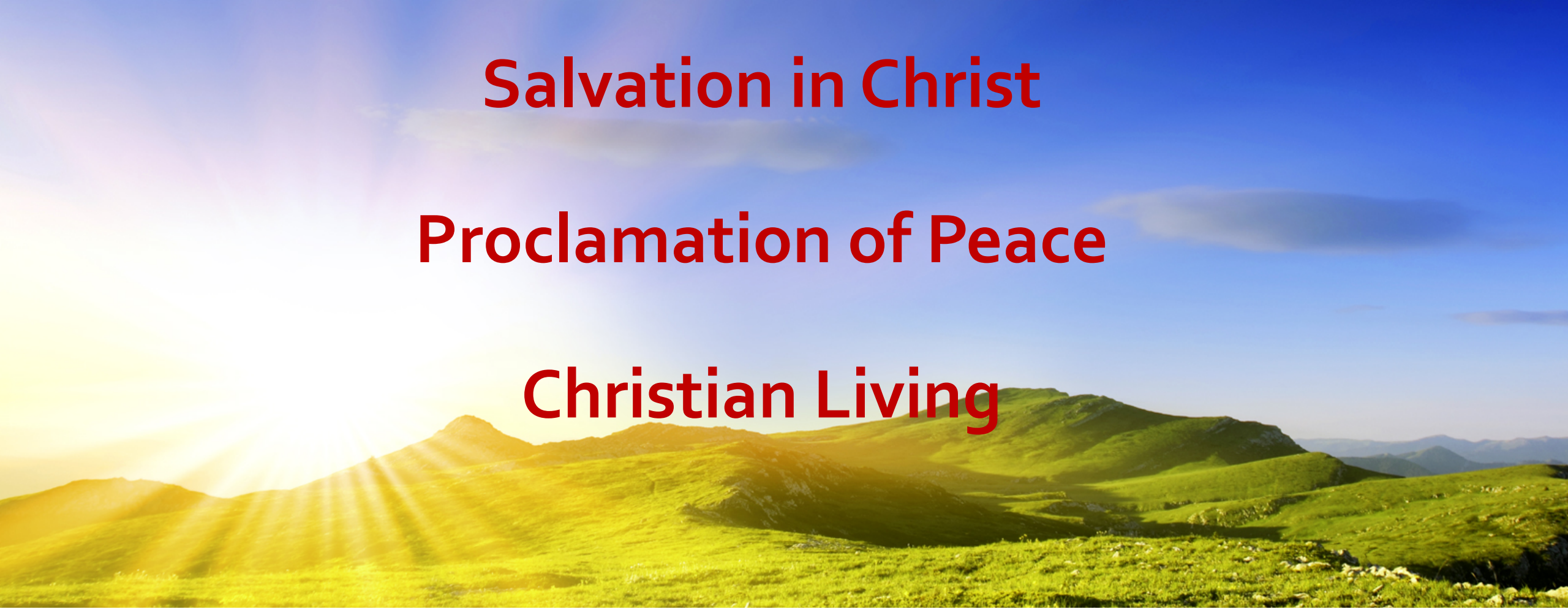




# Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans

by  
David A. Reaves



**Salvation in Christ**  
**Proclamation of Peace**  
**Christian Living**

**Major Themes**

- **Reflection on Relationship between Man and God**
  - **Whole Human Race has Sinned Against God - Universal**
    - Our Natural Inclination to Sin Separates Us from God
  - **All are in Need of God's Mercy**
    - We Cannot Make Ourselves Right or Earn Salvation on Our Own
    - Holy Spirit Works to Help Us Avoid Sin
    - God's Grace, Not Keeping the Law, Makes Us Acceptable
    - God's Infinite Love is the Invincible Basis of Hope
  - **Mercy obtained through the New Covenant, Jesus Christ**
    - Delivers Man from Death to Spiritual Life through Faith
    - **New Covenant Through Death & Resurrection Surpasses Old Covenant**
      - Not Just for the Family of Israel, but for the Entire Church

Salvation in Christ

## Peace with God

- Repair Relationship Between Man and God Marked by Conflict
- Heal Social Systems and Destructive Tendencies

## Peace Between Jews and Gentiles

- Idea of One World (End of Romans 3)
- God is Not Dividing Mankind
- United in Sin (Diagnosis)
- United in Grace (Remedy)

## Peace Between Christians and the Surrounding World

- Being Christian May Lead to Conflict and Persecution – Must Try to Be on Good Terms with Others
- Communicate with Trust and Respect on the Basis of Honesty and Justice
- Cannot Force Christianity on People
- Christians Must Maintain Own Integrity

## Peace Within Christian Congregations

- Wealth of Spiritual Gifts Leads to Variety Which Can Lead to Competition
- Must Express Real Love Which is Affectionate and Respectful

**Have Things Really Changed Any?**

**Proclamation of Peace**

# How to Live Everyday Life

Social Dimension

Charism and  
Spiritual Gifts

Body of  
Christ

Christian's  
Obligation  
Toward  
Church and  
Society

Similar to  
Corporal  
Works of  
Mercy  
(Matthew 25)

Charity

Recognize

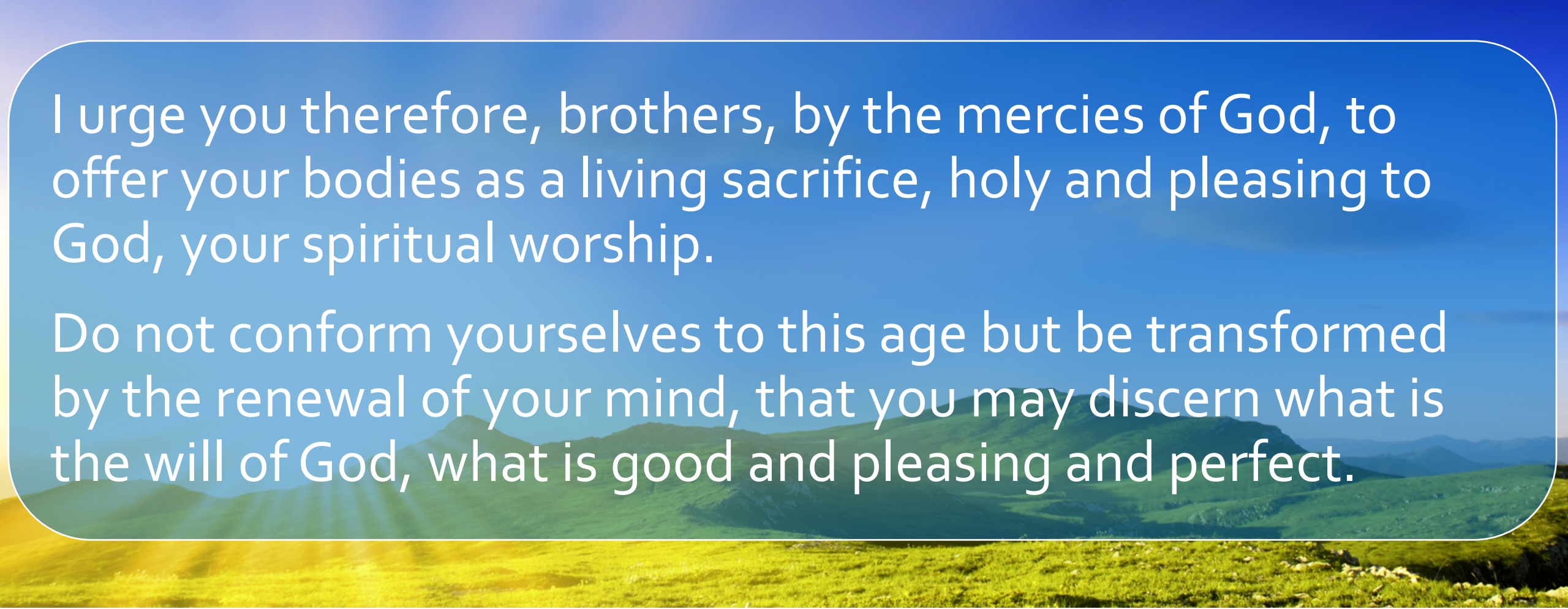
Understand

Exercise

Share  
Suffering

Share Joy

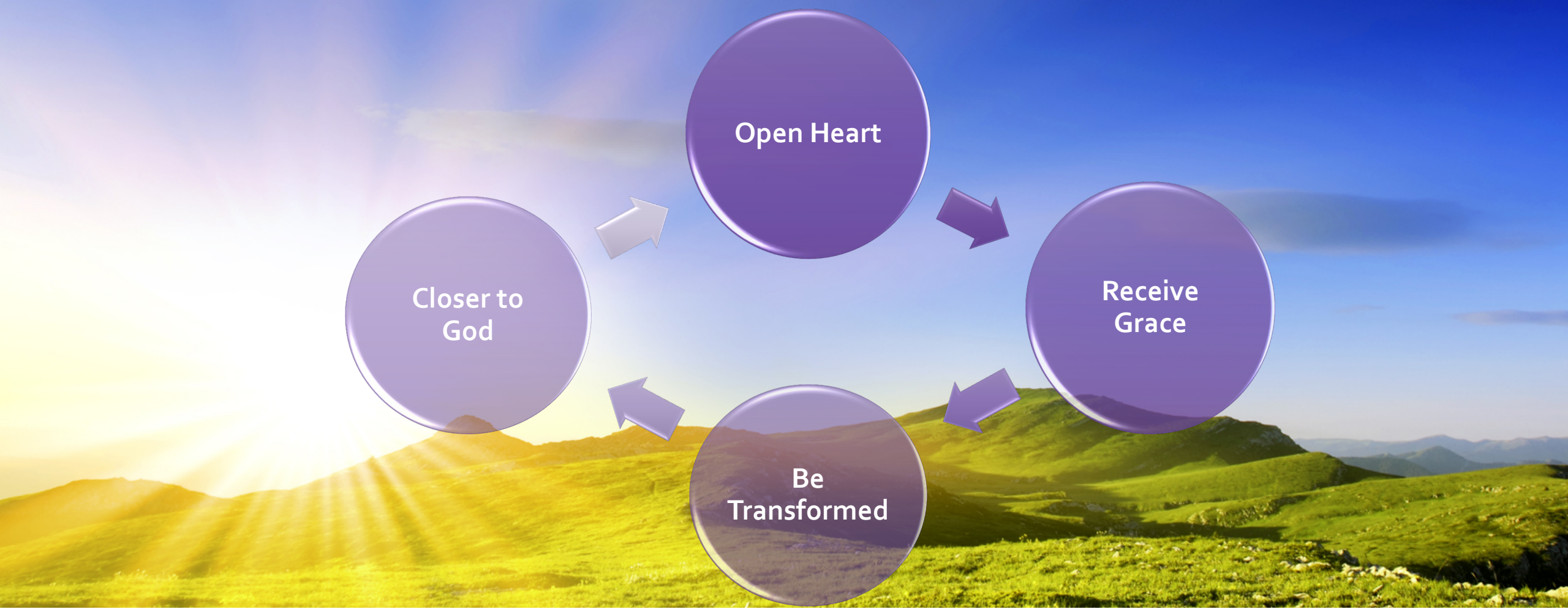
## Christian Living



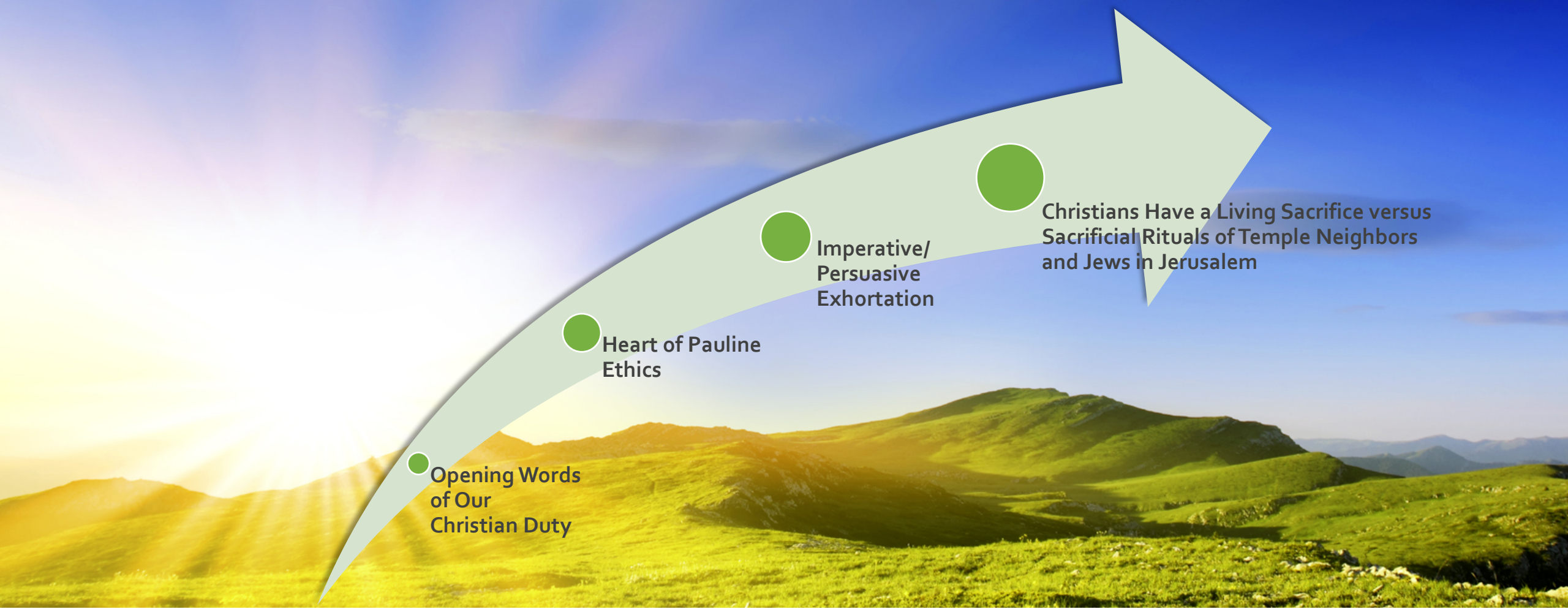
I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 Exegesis



# Romans 12:1-2 Exegesis Main Thesis



● Opening Words  
of Our  
Christian Duty

● Heart of Pauline  
Ethics

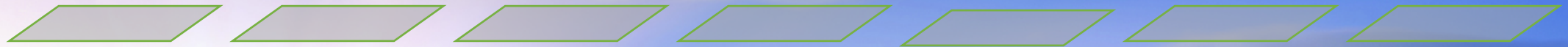
● Imperative/  
Persuasive  
Exhortation

● Christians Have a Living Sacrifice versus  
Sacrificial Rituals of Temple Neighbors  
and Jews in Jerusalem

# Romans 12:1-2 Exegesis Context



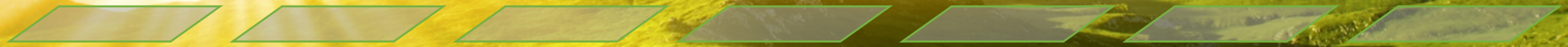
Like a Formal Treatise – A Summary of Paul's Theology



Has Features of Formal Epistle - Didactic



A Philosophical Diatribe

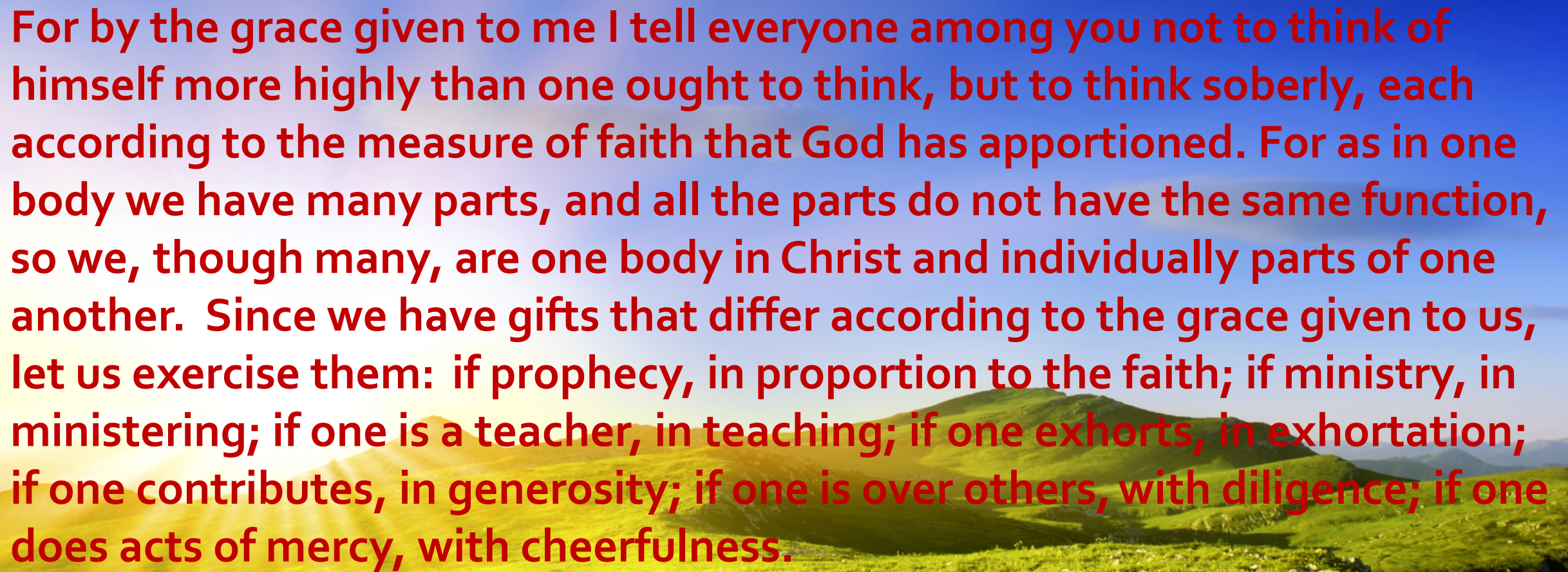


Romans 12:1-2 Exegesis  
Form, Structure, and Movement

- **Leading Up to This Point, Paul**
  - **Has Meditated on God Permitting Free Choice**
  - **Outlines the Sinfulness of Entire Human Race**
  - **Talks About God's Mercy**
  - **Makes Us Participants in God's Redemptive Plan**
- **In the beginning of Romans 12, Paul is**
  - **Calling Us Into Action**
  - **Asking Us to Live a Life of Grace**
  - **Encouraging Us to Die of Self and Live for Christ**
  - **Moving Us to Be Holy**
    - **Invest Ourselves in the Truth**
    - **Participate Wholly in the Sacraments**
  - **Informing Us to Be Transformed by Connecting Heart and Mind\**
    - **Discernment**
    - **Understand Our Faith – What We Believe!**

# Romans 12:1-2 Exegesis

## Detailed Analysis



For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

## Class Exegesis Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned.

**How is Paul asking us to balance our gifts and talents? Why?**



Class Exegesis  
Romans 12:3-8

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

**How should/does this work in today's church? Give Examples**



Class Exegesis  
Romans 12:3-8

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**What are your gifts? Are you using them fully?**

Class Exegesis  
Romans 12:3-8

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