

PUT ON THE NEW MAN

Brother Jason Bright
Phoenix Assembly Church
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Edited by Sister Nicole Wentzell

The title tonight is: Put on the New Man. And if we could begin by going to the book of Romans chapter 12 and verse 1, Paul says:

Romans 12:1

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.

Now we read this verse probably a month or two ago, but I was asked certain questions and I think this is a good place to start.

So the first thing we see is: this book is written *to believers*. This is *not* an evangelistic book for the man of the world to come in. Nonetheless, Paul tells these Christians to do something that we would probably think is a natural part of being a Christian.

He says:

Romans 12:1

present your bodies a living sacrifice,

Again, this was written to those who were in Rome. And Paul in particular was *the apostle to the Gentiles* [Romans 11:13] even though there was always a certain group of Jews together with those Gentiles.

But the point is: Rome at that time was already very pagan. There was perversion, there was fornication.

So Paul said:

Romans 12:1

present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.

Now, he *didn't* have to tell them what that *meant*. They *knew* what *the standard* was. They *knew* what a *clean and acceptable life* was. I say: *acceptable to God*.

But still, Paul says: *by the mercy of God, I beg you*. [Romans 12:1] I mean, those are *not* the exact words but basically that's the expression. Well, I guess in Spanish, *it is the exact words*.

This shows that as Paul was looking at the situation, he *didn't exactly see this yet*. So there were some issues.

As we continue into verse 2, he says:

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world:

Now they had come *out of the world*. Nonetheless, the devil would've loved for them to – if we can say this – *slide back into the rudiments of the world*. [Colossians 2:8]

He might *not* be able to get them to *deny their faith*, so the next thing he would want to do is that they kind of – we can say – *mesh together the Christian walk with the world*.

Paul says: *don't do that*.

But we see that's prevalent today. The only thing we have to do, we can begin to look at *so-called Christian music*. Many times, if we're not listening closely to the words, we wouldn't know that it's Christian music, we would think it's just music of the world.

I read a news article the other day and a certain Christian artist *admitted that*. He said: my music has the sound of the world. They offered him some great award – that's another thing – and he said: I've decided I'm *not* going to accept any awards for my music because *as Christians*, I don't think we should.

Well personally, I think it would be better if his music sounded right, and *if it did*, he might not even have to worry about getting the awards.

It's a sad thing, there are certain singers who have beautiful voices and they've composed beautiful songs. Then one day, I'm listening to a new album and maybe a song even starts off beautifully but all of a sudden, they jump right into *rap*. And I think: what just happened? It's like somebody flipped a switch.

What is that? If they're *conforming to the world* in their music, *don't* tell me they're *not conforming in their heart*.

I know the excuse they use: oh, we have to reach those who are out there. *This* is what they know. I have to say: if you *don't* reach them with *the Gospel of Jesus Christ*, you're *not* going to reach them. It's *not* the attraction of the world that brings them to the Lord.

And it's the same for us.

Paul says here:

Romans 12:2

be not conformed to this world:

There may be pressure in the world. There may be pressure at our work. There may be pressure at school. There may be pressure from family. But we have to be able to see that down through time, if a man or a woman had a *true experience* with the Lord Jesus Christ, *they made the decision to live their life for the Lord*. Praise the Lord.

Come what may. Somebody who was my friend before might not want to be my friend now. I may lose my job.

Now I will say: there is a difference between being wise and standing for what's right. We need to be wise *without sacrificing what we know is right*.

It's another thing if we go to work and we just want to tell the whole world that they need to change. And then later, we're wondering why we don't have a job anymore. I have to say: that's your fault.

But we are to *stand for what's right*.

In the past, this has even *cost Christians their lives*. I was talking about a job, but there were times before, and still today in certain parts of the world, it's costing them *their life*. That's how important it is.

The spirit in the world – I mean *in the religious world* – that makes them want to just *slide back into the worldly rudiments* [Colossians 2:8] I have to say: that kind of character *would not stand*, they *would not give their life for the Gospel* because they have *not* had the experience that you and I have had.

Now he says:

Romans 12:2

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.

So on the highest level here, this is a *choice* that we make. And really, it's tied together with the choice that we made in the beginning when we came to the Lord.

When we come to the Lord and we are baptized, that baptism *represents* that we are *identifying with Christ in his death*. [Romans 6:3] In other words: we are *dying to this flesh*. We are *crucifying this flesh*.

I remember when I was 23 years old, there was a very famous singer. The world seem to be running after her. She had money, she had fame, and she had just gotten married. It seemed like – at least from the natural point of view – she had everything anybody could want.

But one of her workers got angry, I think it was about how much they were getting paid, or I don't remember, maybe they had stolen something and they got caught. Whatever it was, there was some kind of very emotionally charged encounter. That worker had a gun and she shot and killed this singer who – I believe – was the same age as I was.

After I heard about that, the next day I was thinking: she's dead. The following day, I thought: she's still dead.

Now you say: *of course*, Brother Jason!

I know, of course, but try to follow my thought. Today: she's still dead. She never did turn 24. But thank God: I turned 24, 25, and other numbers as well. But what I was thinking about was: *she's dead*. She *can't* live according to the world now. She *can't live at all*.

The Christian is going to *resolve* in their heart: *I'm giving my life to the Lord*. It's *no longer my life*.

Every now and then, the flesh will try to take back control, but that's where *the spiritual man* has to have *resolve*.

Paul *didn't* say here: hope that this all comes about.

He said: *be not conformed to the world*. [Romans 12:2] Amen.

And he said:

Romans 12:2
but be ye transformed

First of all, we have to make a *decision*. And that really begins with: *true repentance*. That's where it starts.

But anytime the enemy comes along and kind of *upsets the boat*, we have to be reminded that *we are resolved to follow the Lord*. Just like the song we sing: *I have decided to follow Jesus*, we have decided that *this is our life*.

And the beautiful part is: he says *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. [Romans 12:2]

So we allow our mind to become subject to the Word of God. We allow our mind to be *transformed to think spiritually*. And there is *not* a more beautiful way to live, to look at life, and to think.

Remember: the battle is all *in the mind*.

When people go for surgery and they're told: we're going to put you to sleep – [laugh] I don't know if that's the right term, it probably sounds a little harsh – maybe they say: we're going to *put you under* [anesthetic] a lot of people get really fearful.

They can cut our hand or whatever might need to be done, but *taking away our conscience* is really, in a sense, as though for a moment *we won't have possession of our mind*.

The mind is where our thoughts are. So that's the point of focus. And he says: *renew it*. [Romans 12:2]

How? By living according to the Word, and growing in the Word. In other words: allowing the Holy Ghost that we have received *to change our way of thinking*.

And that's the big picture. That's *our decision* and that is *our effort*.

Now we may think or feel: well, I've made that decision, I'm living for the Lord. But if we're *not careful*, we get a little bit relaxed and we feel at peace, all of a sudden something comes along. Again, it may be initiated because of something in our natural life. It may be a co-worker, a fellow family member or a friend, but some condition comes up and we realize: we've done something that's not really pleasing to the Lord.

Again, I'm *not* talking about – well I hope it's *not sin* – but if it is, then even more so we can say: we've done something that's not pleasing to the Lord.

Let's go to Romans chapter 7. There's really a lot I want to read here in Romans 7 but for now, I think I'm just going to read verse 15, and verses 18 and 19.

In verse 15, Paul says:

Romans 7:15

For that which I do I allow not:

In English he says: *I don't allow*. But in Spanish he says: *I don't understand*.

So taking those two together, we can say: *he knows what's right*, but he says that *what he's doing* – we can say – *he doesn't know why he does it*, or *he knows that he shouldn't*.

He says:

Romans 7:15

for what I would, that do I not;

What I want to do, I don't do it. And of course, he's speaking of *the spiritual walk*.

What did Jesus say? He said: *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.* [Matthew 26:41]

We know what *we should do*. He says: *but the flesh is weak*. And how weak is it with us when every one of us has that *serpent nature*? That's the struggle he's taking about here.

Do we also have a certain portion of *Adam's seed*? Of course we do. We have *both*. And that's a struggle.

He says here:

Romans 7:15
but what I hate, that do I.

That's pretty strong. We might think: *Paul? The great apostle Paul?* He's saying: *what I want to do, I don't do*. And: *what I don't want to do, that I do*.

Now that *doesn't* mean: all the time. But it shows: *he had that struggle*. And we should not be amazed or marvel that *we have the same struggle*.

Also in verse 18:

Romans 7:18
For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:19
For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Again, it's *not* that everything Paul did was evil, but he had *that struggle with his flesh*.

Now as a man or a woman, we can *try*. We can say: I'll do better next time. If the same situation comes again, I'll be ready. But no man or woman can *simply on their own* live pleasing to God because of that nature. *We have to have the new birth*. [John 3:3]

We can't just tell somebody who has not been born again: well, *stop doing this, stop doing that*. This is the way: you live right, put forth the effort, please God, and then maybe He'll bless you. It *doesn't* work that way.

We *can't do good* until *He* has given us of His Spirit.

But when we hear the Gospel message, *we repent*. What is that? That's *the decision*: I see I'm a sinner, I recognize it, and I decide *I'm going to live right*. It's *not* that we have *the power* on our own, but it's *our decision* that we are going *to live for the Lord*.

So *we repent*, and we are *baptized* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, God does *not* give us the Holy Ghost because we then prove to Him: well, I've been really good for a month, or a year. Or because we're showing the Lord that we are serious. The Lord *knows* whether we're honest or not *from day-one*.

God does *not* give us the Holy Ghost because we prove to Him that we are serious, He gives us the Holy Ghost because *Jesus Christ died on the cross*. That was the payment for us. And *we have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ*.

Let's go to the book of Acts.

Here in chapter 1 Jesus is telling the disciples that *they are to wait*. [Acts 1:4]

And in verse 8, he says:

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

In Spanish it says: *when the Holy Ghost has come upon you*.

Now, we could look at that and say: oh, they had power. They preached powerful messages. There were great healings and miracles. And *there certainly were!*

But first and foremost, when we receive the Holy Ghost, we have *power* to be able to grow to *overcome this flesh* and to *crucify this flesh*. And even there, it is *a process of renewing*.

As we grow, we still have the same struggle that Paul talked about: *the old man* and *the new man* are *not in agreement*. But what we have to do, we have to *feed the new man* and we have to *starve the old man*. And the *new man* will *grow in strength*.

Let's now go to Colossians chapter 3. There's really a lot I want to look at here.

The very first verse:

Colossians 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ,

Now if I ask: how many of us are risen with Christ? We will probably all say: amen! Praise the Lord! I'm risen with Christ!

So if that be the case, he says:

Colossians 3:1

seek those things which are above,

Not: seek what's here on the earth.

Somebody might say: well Brother, I need to eat, I need a job, I need *this*, I need *that*.

Yes I know. And the Lord knows that too. That's why in another place, the Lord himself said: *seek ye first*. He said: *seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all these other things will be added unto you.* [Matthew 6:33]

God will give us what we need. Sometimes we make the mistake of trying so hard to obtain what *we think we need* and we don't realize: if we would really give the Lord *the time He deserves*, He would bless us with all these other things.

Yet sometimes, we can push and push, and we don't even realize that His hand is kind of just there, holding us back. You're *not* going to get past that Hand. I'm *not* either.

But when we can wake up and realize that *we need to seek Him*, then He can just *lift that*, and He can bless us.

Colossians 3:1
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Amen.

Your affection: that's what is *dear to your heart*, what is *dear to my heart*.

We can be thankful that the Lord called us to know Him. But I will say: there's a spirit in the religious world today that says: you can come to know the Lord, but Sunday morning after church, hurray! You can go right back out, and live out there in the world.

Maybe they *don't* go to the bar, or *this*, or *that*. Maybe they watch their language. But they almost forget about the Lord until the next Sunday morning: they'll be right there at church again. I have to say: that's *not* the life to live.

He said: *set your affection on things above*. That means: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Colossians 3:3
For ye are dead,

There it is. *Dead*, how? Obviously, thankfully, this body is still functioning. How are we *dead*? We are *dead to the carnal things of the flesh*. Praise the Lord.

We *crucify this flesh* to the natural things that don't mean anything for the Lord, to everything that is contrary to the Lord.

And if we want a list, Paul gives us a list in two or three different places. He says: it's *this*, it's *this*, it's *this*. [Galatians 5:19]

We might say: well I'm good *here*, good *here*, good *here*, uh oh, maybe not so much *this one*. Well, that's probably where we need to look.

But he says: *we are dead*. The *natural desires* of what the flesh would want, how we would just want to live our life, *we are dead to that*.

Somebody might say: Brother, *I don't want that*.

Well, have we decided to serve the Lord *or not*?

I have to say: in the end, there's nothing better. The *joy*, the *peace*, and the *happiness* go far beyond what we could ever obtain if we give the green light to the old man. Because *He knows*. *He created us for His purpose*. And there's nothing greater, more beautiful, or more joyous than *to be in the will of God*.

That's why Jesus said: *who are my brothers and my sisters? Those who do the will of my Father*. [Matthew 12:50] Praise the Lord.

So he says here:

Colossians 3:3

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

There is coming a day – I'm not talking about when Jesus returns for his bride but *after that* – there is coming a day when Jesus Christ is going to *return visibly* to the earth. Now, do we want to be *down here in this world* or do we want to be *coming back with him*?

He says: *if our life is hid in Christ, we will appear with him in glory*.

Colossians 3:5

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;

A nicer way to say that is: *kill*. *Kill your members which are upon the earth*.

Here's one of his lists:

Colossians 3:5

fornication,

Remember: Paul was writing to Gentiles. The Gentiles were pagan. They had all kinds of terrible ceremonies, devilish rituals, and there was *fornication*.

But we live in a world today, people don't even see that there is anything wrong with that. They will come and tell you: oh, meet *my girlfriend*, this is *my girlfriend*.

You know, the terms *boyfriend* and *girlfriend* used to mean – and it still should between Christians – it meant that two people had gone past the point of dating. In others words: they had talked, they liked each other, and they had decided that they were going to be a *couple*. But they still *weren't married*. Once they would marry, then they would be *husband and wife*.

But today they say: this is *my girlfriend*, or she says: this is *my boyfriend*. We know what they mean by that: they have relations. And they don't even think there's anything wrong with it. That's the world we're in today. Not to mention the other perversions – maybe I shouldn't say *the other* – but not to mention the perversion that exists.

He says:

Colossians 3:5
fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection,

Those are *the other perversions*. What do they say today? Oh, you should be able to love whoever you want. Well, I agree with that when it's love, *real love*, but they're *not* talking about love today. They're talking about something else and *they call it love*.

Paul called it: *inordinate affection*. And he said: *that is a fleshly characteristic*.

Colossians 3:5
evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Colossians 3:6
For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

There is coming a day of *the wrath of God*.

Colossians 3:7
In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

He says: *you used to also walk that way*.

I have say: thanks be to God, if we have received the Holy Ghost, that Holy Ghost gives us *power*. It *doesn't* mean we're never going to make a mistake. It *doesn't* mean we're never going to fall. But over time *we grow stronger and stronger* if we will make the effort to *put on the new man*.

Now Paul is going to speak about other things, but we'll go ahead and stop for tonight.

Let's go ahead and pray.