

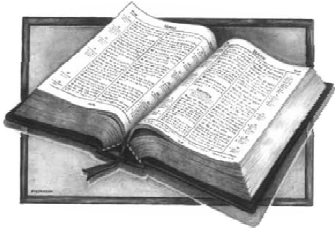
Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from July 3, 2011

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Scripture of the Week



Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore I urge you, 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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Roman Christians has been described as the most complete treatise on faith contained in the Bible. In the first 11 chapters Paul employs the art of logical argumentation to show us that every person must come to God in humble, obedient faith to be saved and have the hope of heaven. In those chapters he paints a well-rounded picture of God, pointing out both His goodness and severity (11:22), His wrath and His mercy. But in Romans 12:2 Paul makes an appeal to all Christians to live righteously based purely on God’s mercies. Paul urges us by the mercies of God to present our bodies

as a living sacrifice to God and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. God wants us to change the way we live in our bodies, and think in our minds, so we can please Him. God has been so good and merciful to us that we should be more than willing to be the kind of people He wants us to be. When God sacrificed His Son Jesus so that we could be saved and go to heaven, He gave us the very best He had to offer. Now we should give Him our very best. That is going to require a mental transformation on our part. We need to learn to think differently than the world if we want to live eternally with God.

Transformed and Renewed

The word rendered “transformed” in Romans 12:2 is the Greek word “*Metamorphoo*”. It literally means to change into another form. It is the same word used in Matthew 17:2 when Jesus was said to have been “transfigured” on the mountain with Peter, James and John, and His appearance changed right before their very eyes. Paul tells us that our minds must be transformed and made new so that we can know and do God’s will. He wrote that we are not to be “conformed” to this world. That means we are not to allow the world to shape our mental and behavioral patterns. The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:16 that the lust of the flesh, the lust of

the eyes and the pride of life are the patterns of thought and behavior that define worldly people. We are not to be CON-formed to worldliness, but TRANS-formed by the renewing of our minds. Within the word of God lies the awesome power to change and transform even the vilest sinner into a spotless child of God. But Romans 12:2 tells us we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds “so that” we can prove what His will is. In other words, we need to transform our way of thinking even before we read the Bible, so we can study it with the right frame of mind. When we study the Bible it should be with a new mind, cleared of any precon-

ceived notions. We should read the Bible with an honest and sincere desire to learn the truth and obey God’s will for us, even when the Bible shows us that we haven’t been believing or practicing the right things. We must have the mind to not take other people’s word for the issues that effect our eternal destinies, but to prove God’s perfect will by a thorough and logical examination of the Scriptures. Are you ready for God to change you into the very best person you can possible be? Stop thinking and talking and acting like everybody else in the world, and stop settling with anything less than the Truth, and He will!

Please Come Visit Us At...

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30
Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



One Another

God tells us in Romans 12:9-10 how deeply we should love other Christians. He wrote there, *“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”* These two verses show us how highly God wants brothers and sisters in Christ to value each other. He wants us to “love” each other with all sincerity (without hypocrisy). He wants us to be “devoted” to one another. The King James Version says *“be kindly affectioned to one another.”* This word describes the kind of love that parents have for their children. This means that God want us to love each other with tenderness and affection. He also wants us to “give preference” to one another. Above all other people in the world, we should prefer

spending time with our brothers and sisters in Christ and doing good things for one another. The spiritual family ties formed in the body of Christ should be the closest of all earthly bonds because they are the relationships that we will carry into eternity. When you stop and contemplate the fact that brothers and sisters in Christ will live together forever in heaven, it only makes sense that we should be bound together by loves strongest cords here on earth. God has written a lot more in the Bible about what Christians should do for each other as well. Hebrews 3:13 tells us to “encourage one another”. The earth can be a very discouraging place to live sometimes. God gave us a spiritual family to lift up our spirits in times of tragedy and trial. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says “edify” or “build up

one another”. Life has a tendency to cut us up and tear us down, but brethren in Christ are there to help put us back together again and build us back up. Ephesians 4:32 tells us to “forgive one another”. Even Christians who are doing their very best to live righteous lives, sometimes mess up and sin against a member in their spiritual family. As God forgives us when we sin against Him, we should forgive others who sin against us. Finally, Galatians 6:2 says we are to “bear one another’s burdens”. Sometimes the problems of life just get to heavy to carry all by ourselves. In times like these, brothers and sisters in Christ must be there for each other to help shoulder the heavy loads that are able to crush our spirits. A good family in Christ is one of God’s very best spiritual blessings of all!

GOSPEL MEETING AUGUST 15-17 WITH GERRY SANDUSKY — Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend every day of this short, three day meeting with Gerry Sandusky of Madison Indiana. Brother Gerry has entitled this series of studies, “Standing at the Door of the Day of Eternity”. Each lesson will be taken from the New Testament book of 1 Thessalonians, and the goal of this meeting will be to motivate each one of us to live every day of our lives on planet earth as if it might be our last.