



transformed

studies in Romans 9-16

SCPC term 4 2007

sunday 25th november 2007

study 6 transformed time Romans 13:8-14

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

There is a lot that's packed into this little passage. It seems to have two key purposes in terms of the unfolding argument of Romans. Firstly, it repeats the focus on LOVE as the unifying idea of our response to God's mercy ("love must be sincere" in 12:9 seems to almost act as a heading over all the commands that follow through to this point). Secondly, this little passage adds to that reminder about love, a note of URGENCY in getting serious about it. Love means action. It means action now. Stop hitting the snooze button and wake up to God's calling! So, the time dimension is prominent here. Specifically, it shifts our attention to the FUTURE and it's impact on the present. The call to view God's mercy in 12:1 is a call that makes us look back to the cross—& how the PAST impacts the present. But the idea of hope, so prominent in Romans 8 and mentioned again in 12:12 ('joyful in hope'), takes us forward to "the day" of our salvation being realized (13:12 'the day is almost here'). We look back to mercy, we look forward in hope... and we get some urgent repentance happening now!

some notes on questions

Q1. No prize for getting this one right. Starts with 'L'. The key to it all.

Q2. The issue is the heart (so 'wholeheartedly' in 6:17). See also 1:21 & 10:9. The Spirit has changed our hearts to want to obey God ... we are being changed from the inside out.

Q3-4. There are two words for time in Greek: *CHRONOS* (which is normal 'chronological', 7:30pm type time) and *KAIROS*, which is God-time—i.e. a significant 'moment' in God's plan. We live in such a moment—because Jesus' resurrection is the dawn of a new day about to break. We are to live with urgency because the day will break any moment.

Q5. This really takes us to heart of the passage—as we see what we're turning from and what we're turning to—transformation. Get specific—the passage does!

Q6-7. See the intro comments above.

Q8. Spend plenty of time on this one. I think the focus of this study should be: "you know all those things you've been convicted by in the last few weeks looking at Romans? Now's the time to take action—urgently—don't hit the snooze button again but wake up and act!"

digging deeper: notice that, where Romans 12:1 talks about "in view of God's mercy...", this passage talks about "in view of his appearing" (to judge—his return). The New Testament is constantly reminding us to look back the cross and forward to it's implications at 'the day'.

small group bible study leaders' notes



remember that once the talk goes up on the website you can always post a question/observation by leaving a comment—it's easy to do and then others will also be able to see the response when it goes up and leave their thoughts too.

coming events

carols in the shops: sat 15 dec
carols at lismore high: sun 16 dec
christmas day at lis. high: 9:30am