



# transformed

studies in Romans 9-16

SCPC term 4 2007

## sunday 9th december 2007

### study 8 transformed ambition Romans 15:14-33

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**

We are now in our second last week of Romans. Definitely time to be hitting some serious application of the message of this great book to our lives as individuals and as a church family. Kicking off from the key verses for this term Romans 12:1-2 (above), we've looked at the theme of transformation—transformation by God's mercy—under a whole variety of headings: transformed lives; transformed relationships; transformed attitude; transformed citizens; transformed time; transformed unity and now transformed **AMBITION**. This really is the heart of the matter. What are we her for? What are our lives lived for? What are our hopes and desires? What is our driving **AMBITION**? For Paul it is living and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus. And he expects it to be the same for the Christians at Rome. Certainly it should also be the same for Christians in Lismore. Not just worldly ambition with a God-coating. But completely transformed ambition. Gospel ambition. The honour of Jesus. Is that what we're living for? Is that what our church is striving for?

#### some notes on questions

Q1. Paul regularly sees God's grace as simultaneously being a matter of being brought **IN** to God's family (salvation) and being sent **OUT** into the world (mission). It is God's grace to dignify us to again be his representatives in the world as Adam was originally meant to be (se Romans 5:12-21).

Q2. You glory in your saviour... which is not us, it's not money, it's not \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with your favourite rival god). Jesus is our saviour and we glory in (exalt/serve/worship) him.

Q3-4. The general part is the preaching of the gospel. The specific part is preaching the gospel where it's not been heard before (and even more especially Gentiles—the far-off).

Q5. Prayer. Money. Time. Sacrifice. Their entire lives. Their whole ambition. Stuff like that.

Q6. The recent example we prayed about in church—SRE in our public schools is a great example—many many children who have never heard the gospel. On campus at Uni. Mums who attend MOPS. Our family member, neighbour, workmate, schoolfriend. The 'no-foundation' mission is as real as it was for Paul! We live in a mission field!!

Q7-8. Try to encourage each other about how we could be stepping forward with our gifts and time and energy to play our part in mission ((think back to Romans 12:3-8).

**digging deeper:** notice especially verse 18—it's all about becoming like Jesus (THE missionary!)



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

small group bible study leaders' notes