

It's Halftime

March 18, 2018, Sermon by: Pastor Bryan Tomes

We're in a game called life and we've been given a heavenly coach – the Holy Ghost. And we have a Father watching over us.

The Word of God is like bread. It's our daily manna. The children of Israel were told to gather it daily, not get a weeks' worth. You can't come to church for the word and think it can last all week – that would be like if you only ate once a week.

- **Text:**

- **Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)** - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform 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.*

This is an extremely Important Scripture and Very Strategic Transition In The Bible

- **This scripture serves as “Chalk Talk” at the Half Time address In The Game of Life**

- At halftime the coach calls the entire team in refocus the team..
 - If they're **losing** - it's a **don't give up** speech & strategy .. you need to learn from your opponent to go back and win. The enemy has been trying to wipe you out since the day you were born. The devil recognizes the anointing and anointed of God. He's trying to stop you from the potential in you to be released.
 - Get a new strategy, listen to the coach of life, and get a new plan to win the game of life.
 - If they're **winning** - it's a **don't let up** speech & strategy ..
 - If you have your foot on the neck of the devil, keep it there. Don't let the devil get up – he's under your feet.
- **The Bible Is Playbook To Lead God's People to Victory !!**

There's a goal, there's a finish line, and there's a game that we're in.

 - **Don't read to just remember scripture**
 - Read to Renew & refresh your spirit
 - When you read the bible, let the Word of God read you & change you.
 - Run the pattern and plan that Jesus & the Holy Ghost has set for your life. The Word says, “do not be conformed to the patterns of this world”
 - Read to Revitalize – don't lose passion, soak in the Word of God
 - Read to Refocus – find your purpose in the Word of God
 - Read to Refresh
 - Read to Re-establish – as one of God's players in the game of life
- **After devoting eleven chapters to heavy-duty theology:**
 - **Romans 3** - Sin is a problem - But Christ took our punishment
 - **Romans 4** - By Faith lay hold of the promises of God

- **Romans 5** - This Faith brings great joy & peace
 - **Romans 6** - The Power of Sin is broken in Christ
 - **Romans 7** - the answer & anecdote for struggling sinners! You have to hate sin in order to stop. There's no power greater than the power of Jesus and the blood of Christ. Be willing and open to carry out the plan God has for you. Take every thought captive and obedient to Christ.
 - **Romans 8** - Life in the Spirit - those who led are the children
 - **Romans 9** - those who God selects
 - **Romans 10** - Salvation & prescription for the selection – don't be a spiritual streaker with only the helmet of salvation on – wear the whole armor of God. Next time the devil comes to your door, attack him first so he never wants to come back.
 - **Romans 11** - The Mercies of God
- **Paul transitions in chapter 12 from doctrine to duty, from creed to conduct, and from belief to behavior!**
 - He says, "In light of what God has done, here is how we should respond" in response to God's mercy – offer your bodies a living sacrifice.
 - **To put it another way:**
 - the apostle encourages us to turn our "Me-ology" into "Theology" & "Talk-ology" into "Walk-ology"
 - In other words, we need to put into action that what we have been taught!
 - We need to be hearers and DO-ers of the word of God. There's a DO in DOctrine.
 - Paul uses this imperative 13 times in the first eleven chapters of Romans; he uses it eleven times in chapter 12 alone
 - In fact, there are so many commands and imperatives that it's called The Action Chapter of Romans
 - Your actions determine your transactions with Christ – what you receive from Christ is what you believe in Christ
 - Your position can impede your progress – you can position yourself to receive from God
- **PAULS THESIS of Romans 12: YOUR BELIEFS IMPACT YOUR BEHAVIOR**
What do you believe?
 - **PAUL OFFERS 3 KEYS:**
 1. **PRESENT YOUR BODY - AS A LIVING SACRIFICE**
 2. **DO NOT CONFORM - TO PATTERNS OF THIS WORLD**
 3. **RENEW YOUR MIND - LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION**
- **PRESENT YOUR BODY – Romans 12:1**
 - Therefore – Is a Transition – Call To Arms - Romans 1-11 Laid out the Doctrine – Romans 12 is the "DO" - DOctrine

- Brothers or Brethren – *Parakaleo* – Commander’s Call (Classical Grk)
- I Urge You - Plead With You - Beg You !!
- Present – *Paristemi* – It’s Not Surrender / it’s Yield-PRESENT Happy, Gladly give up
- Spiritual – *Logikos* – *Where we Get Logical – Reasonable or Logical*
The most logical thing we can do after being saved is to offer ourselves to Christ

- **DO NOT CONFORM - Romans 12:2**

- Any Longer to The Patterns of This World – Shaped
 - People love "Affirmation" but what people really need Is "Confirmation"
We need to hear about the patterns that need correction
- **Conformed** - *Syschematizo* -grk = Fashioned
 - We are Fashioned w/ Favor / Not Fashioned For Failure
Stop being somebody else cuz it’s already taken.
- **We love to look at our Potential but often neglect our patterns**
 - Our "Potential" Needs a Prescription
 - But Our Patterns Need a "Examination"
 - Stop looking at just the potential in people & start looking at the patterns
 - **Your past tells a story of what needs to be dealt with for you to move into your future**

- **RENEW YOUR MIND – Romans 12:2**

Small thinking leads to small living, big thinking leads to big living – dream Big – your supernatural potential is locked up in God’s hands. If you’re chained to your past, you’ll never move into your future.

- **BUT, Be Transformed By The Renewing of Your Mind**
 - *Metamorphoo* – tadpole to frog – caterpillar to2 butterfly CHANGED
- **There are three critical observations related to the verb metamorphoo:**
 1. **Paul uses the present tense:** this is not an “on again, off again” transformation, but a continuous one.
 2. **The verb is passive,** the implication being that the catalyst in the transformation is God.
 3. **The verb is imperative,** indicating that we do indeed have a responsibility. **The Spirit “changes” us and enables us to offer ourselves completely to God.** This takes place in the mind, which is renewed or changed (lit. “made new again and again”) by the Holy Spirit.