

Who is your King?

[Rom 12:1-2 ESV] 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I. Intro

- A. For those that are new to North Park, every year I start the year with this text.
 - 1. It is the passage that I think about the most.
 - 2. It is the theological statement that challenges me the most
 - 3. It is a passage that we need to be confronted with regularly.
- B. Who is your king?
- C. A King: One who holds a preeminent position
- D. The ruler of your life can be seen in the way you live your life:
 - 1. If you make decisions based upon preference, you are serving as your own king
 - 2. If you make decisions on what is easiest, you are serving without a king
 - 3. If you make decisions based upon popular opinion, you have multiple kings
- E. A king requires complete and total recognition of His sovereign rule
- F. Our king:
 - 1. Requires obedience, but is also full of grace
 - 2. Requires devotion, but gives you complete understanding and reason for devotion.
 - 3. Requires action, but empowers you for the action
- G. OUR GOD is
 - 1. King, Lord, Sovereign, Boss
 - 2. And is kind, full of grace, and the redeemer of all mankind.
- H. We are blessed to respond to our sovereign Lord who Loves us, and wants what is best for us.

II. Text

- A. I appeal to you brothers
 - 1. Paul is making an appeal to the believers in Rome, and it applies to us today
 - 2. This is a strong challenge, but also one marked by kindness.
- B. By the mercies of God
 - 1. This appeal from Paul comes from a place of Mercy
 - 2. Because of the Mercy of God, Paul appeals to us to respond
 - 3. HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER!
- C. To present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
 - 1. The only way you can be holy and acceptable is by the grace of God
 - 2. Grace is what we get, Faith is what gets us there.
- D. Which is your spiritual worship: Our response to God is worship
- E. Do not be conformed to this world:
 - 1. Conformity to the world will only get you more confused about the will and plan of God
 - 2. Conformity is a bad word/bad practice in the Spirit Filled Life
- F. But be transformed by the renewal of your mind
 - 1. Always a learner
 - 2. Always be in the process of transformation
 - 3. Always be in the renewal process
 - 4. The battlefield is in the mind.
- G. That by testing you may discern what is the will of God: you can know the will of God!
Ask HIM!
- H. What is good and acceptable and perfect: this is what you will find from God.

III. Point

- A. The Appeal:

1. Paul makes an appeal under the inspiration of the Spirit
 2. The word makes an appeal to us!
 - a) Present your entire self to God
 - b) DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK!
 3. So, as you consider the appeal, ask yourself: WHO IS MY KING?
 4. What does that look like?
 - a) Serve
 - b) Study
 - c) Learn
 - d) Pray
 - e) Give
 - f) WORSHIP
 5. North Park is at a special place:
 - a) That means we must take this to heart
 - b) We must serve our KING
 - c) We must study HIS message to us
 - d) We must allow learning to transform our thinking
 - e) We must PRAY diligently, because it matters
 - f) We must GIVE sacrificially
 - (1) The New Testament and Old Testament teach this truth
 - (2) We give for the cause and mission of Christ
 - g) All that we do to respond to Christ is WORSHIP
 6. Who is your KING?
- B. The Process:
1. Simple...
 - a) Yield to God
 - b) Serve HIM
 - c) TRUST HIM FULLY
 - d) Take steps of FAITH
 2. Don't make it more complex by conformity to the world
 - a) When you try to give heed to the philosophy of the world,
 - b) You stray from Biblical transformation
- C. The Power:
1. You have the SPIRIT of GOD
 2. You have the PERMISSION of GOD
 3. You have the EXPECTATION OF GOD
 4. You have the FELLOWSHIP of the saints and of GOD
 5. [2Pe 1:3-4 ESV] 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
- IV. Close
- A. It's going to be a great year
 - B. Let us serve well, and serve long!