

Main Emphasis Idea:

How has the church seen scripture and used scripture throughout its history. We will look at 7 ways over the next 6 weeks. Daily bread, instruction of morals and existence, the secular undoing, meditatio (renewal of the mind), study and memory, and spirit empowerment.

Romans 12: 1-2

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.

Questions That Need Answers:

1. What really is the renewal of the mind?
 2. Does our previous topics tie into it?
 3. How can we visually see this?
-

INTRO

Do you remember the first time you realized you were meditating?

* I remember deeply... understanding in my teenage years, the reality that everything around me was built to teach me what to desire, and how to think about it often.

What is meditation?

- RAW DEFINITION: to engage in contemplation or reflection
-

All of this ties in...

• Over the past three weeks in this emphasis, we have discussed daily bread or rumination, finding purpose and our morals in scripture, and how we are being formed and built by what we see, and what we engage in... all of these tie into this idea of Romans 12, and all though we still have a couple of weeks left in our emphasis, all the topics we have discussed so far have culminated into tonight.

- Rumination, morals, purpose, beholding, all of these things are the aspects of us that form our mind.
-

What is our goal as a church again?

- The goal we are after as a church, which we shared in our vision service this year, is discipleship by the way of spiritual formation.
-

What is renewal of the mind?

“Transformation of the mind is the primary place where spiritual formation occurs.”

- **Dallas Willard**

- You see most of us understand that what we need is mind renewal, very few of us understand how...

Rumination of scripture, renews our mind

Finding correct moral standards and our purpose for existing renews our mind

secularism focused on too much, un-renews our mind

- They are all factors, all of these are forms of meditation... meditation is the nature of how the mind processes.
 - **And you might already be asking, how does this help me get closer to God Noah... because how you think about yourself, God, the World, and the people around you, is how you will form your relationship with him.**
-

Is there a way to look at this visually?

- Let's imagine for a minute, that your mind is a building... with a main foundation, with building blocks built all on top of that. That is the best picture I can give you of how this all works... so let's see it visually...

EMPHASIS: SCRIPTURE

TOPIC: RENEWAL OF THE MIND

Self Gratification	Holy	Based of desire	Created for Marriage	Need for more no matter the choice	Sexuality
Comes from God	Based off opinion	Based off External sources	Found in Scripture	Comes from Sexual Desirablity	Worth
Is the source Of joy and Peac	Meant for Others	Will never be enough	Will define my daily life	Helps us Trust God	Money
Found in Vocation	Found in Happiness	Found in Christ	For Others	To Bring The Kingdom	Purpose
Holy	Disappointed	Frustrated	Greatest desire is union	Loves my doing vs my being	God

Eating Talking Walking Comprehension

Self Gratification	Holy	Based of desire	Created for Marriage	Need for more no matter the choice	Sexuality
Comes from God	Based off opinion	Based off External sources	Found in Scripture	Comes from Sexual Desirablity	Worth
Is the source Of joy and Peac	Meant for Others	Will never be enough	Will define my daily life	Helps us Trust God	Money
Found in Vocation	Found in Happiness	Found in Christ	For Others	To Bring The Kingdom	Purpose
Holy	Disappointed	Frustrated	Greatest desire is union	Loves my doing vs my being	God

Eating Talking Walking Comprehension

Self Gratification	Holy	Based of desire	Created for Marriage	Need for more no matter the choice	Sexuality
Comes from God	Based off opinion	Based off External sources	Found in Scripture	Comes from Sexual Desirability	Worth
Is the source Of joy and Peac	Meant for Others	Will never be enough	Will define my daily life	Helps us Trust God	Money
Found in Vocation	Found in Happiness	Found in Christ	For Others	To Bring The Kingdom	Purpose
Holy	Disappointed	Frustrated	Greatest desire is union	Loves my doing vs my being	God

Decision Making
Emotions
Disciplines
Social Interaction
My Worship

Eating Talking Walking Comprehension

Form

Relational Unity	Holy	Houses Desire Correctly	Created for Marriage	Not meant to fulfill my existence	Sexuality
Comes from God	Not based of earthly values	Can't be Found Externally	Found in Scripture	Won't be found by who wants me	Worth
Can be used to bless my family	Meant for Others	Is sourced From God	Will define my daily life	Helps us Trust God	Money
To Worship God	Not Emotion Based	Found in Christ	For Others	To Bring The Kingdom	Purpose
Holy	Love	Patient in our Formation	Greatest desire is union	Cares more about my soul	God

Sexuality
Worth
Money
Purpose
God



A scriptural example of this?

- You see Paul gives us a great example of the mind broken and this process, clear as day in scripture

Romans 7: 15-25

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

What if formation is practical?

- My goal in this is trying my best to get you to see that spiritual formation, renewal of the mind is not all mysticism, it is, and should be for us very practical.
- Renewal of the mind is this journey, its changing the blocks of the building in my mind, to allow all the processes I go through to make decision, to feel emotion, to worship, to make all those align correctly, to correctly exist in Gods kingdom.

EMPHASIS: **SCRIPTURE**

TOPIC: **RENEWAL OF THE MIND**

“The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds.” - **Dallas Willard**

“The battle for Christian behavior is the battle for the Christian mind.”
- **John Scott**

- I believe we are becoming, exactly what our goal is... a disciplined people by the way of spiritual formation
- But, what we want to become, what we are trying to do, will only be derailed by how we think.
- Offering our bodies, as a living sacrifice, to be given over to The Holy Spirit, to transform our minds, our bodies to become people of love, that is what will bring us into seeing not only ourselves changed... but our cities.

RULE OF LIFE - PRACTICE 1

DAILY BREAD-

The practice of returning to Scripture each day to receive God's sustaining word which will, over time, shape our loves and guide our lives.

- This practice will live inside of our scripture emphasis, as one of our daily practices that we will participate in as a church community.
 - Should I just go for it? Yes and no...
 - If you haven't done something like this before, don't be afraid to start slow, and don't feel discouraged when you miss. remember this is a "practice" and that means its going to take time. The hope is that by the time we install our next practice, this will become a daily ritual for you.
-