

What you believe must determine how you behave!

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide#1** Just 2 weeks ago we had a **sending off** of 2 missionary families. **Now this week** we have a different kind of **sending off** of another missionary **Randy Harvey**. If you did not hear, Randy had a heart attack this week in Kosovo & died as a shock to us all. **A Memorial Service** is planned for **Wed. at 9am**, with a reception in the gym to follow.
- B. **Slide#2 This Wed Night:** Mark Ritter will be sharing on **The Two Great Lights** (our sun & moon)
1. Mark will be examining these two great lights, worshipped in many ancient cultures, and see them as **works of art** from an Almighty hand. [Higgs BO-zon ?]
 2. Come hear & see how Mark takes the seemingly mundane & under-appreciated things around us, and watch him reveal the God behind them, & His great works.
- C. **Slide#3blank Women's Haiti Team:** Leaves Wed evening.
- D. **Prayer of consecration:** O God You know our hearts, You know our ways. We humbly lean on Your Holy Spirit for support. We yield ourselves to You; as our own reasonable sacrifice. We are Yours. We will be Yours forever. Unashamedly, unreservedly, perpetually Yours. While we are on this earth, we will serve You; and may we enjoy You forever!

II. Intro:

- A. **Slide#4 Illustration:** I love the speech in **Braveheart** by William Wallace(Mel Gibson) in which he rallies the men of Scotland to fight against England's overpowering army.
1. Wallace: I AM William Wallace. And I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You have come to fight as free men, and free men you are. What would you do without freedom? Will you fight?
 Veteran soldier: Fight? Against that? No, we will run; and we will live.
 Wallace: Aye, fight and you may die. Run and you'll live -- at least a while. And dying in your beds many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days from this day to that for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!!!
 Wallace and Soldiers chant: **Alba gu bra!** (Scotland forever!)
 2. Here **Paul** stands before believers of all generations as he speaks to **his troops** who were about to go into battle. **Why do I say that?**
 - a) See, the word **beseech** in vs.1. In classical Gk. It meant **"exhorting troops who were about to go into battle."**
 - (1) **Beseech** is a strong **"urging"**.
 - (2) It's more than **an idea**...it is **essential** to the Christian life!
- B. **Slide#5 So far** if the book of Romans were a **cross-word puzzle** then ch.'s 1-11 have been helping us to fill in the **Down** side, or the vertical (our relationship with God). **Now** in ch's

12-16 we get to fill in the horizontal blanks (our relationship with one another & how we interact with our world).

1. We now fill in the blanks of our *practical outworking of our faith* like:
 how to **see** with God's **eyes**; how to **love** with His **heart**; how to **speak** with His **lips**;
 how to **serve** with His **hands & feet**.¹

C. **Slide#6 Title:** *What you believe must determine how you behave!*

1. **"Quality of life"** is often discussed when someone has a terminal disease & they are weighing their medical options.
 - a) But I think it needs to be discussed in the **spiritual realm** also.
 - b) Paul will now show what **Quality of life** should characterize, for those who believe in the gospel, as set out in the last **11 ch's**.
2. **What you believe must determine how you behave!**
 - a) **Slide#7** Here is where our **religious Rubber** meets the **rough Road!**
 - b) **Wait, what happens when the rubber really does meet the road?**
 - (1) There's **Traction & Forward Movement!** (not just spinning our wheels)

D. **Overview of the rest of Romans: It's about Relationships!**

1. [Today] Our relationship with **The Lord** (vs.1,2); Our relationship with **Ourselves** (vs.3);
 [Next] Our relationship w/**The Church**(vs.4-16); Our relationship w/**Our Enemies** (17-21)
2. **Then**, we'll look at our relationship with **Our Government** in **ch.13**.
And lastly, our relationship with **Believers who disagree w/you** **ch.'s 14,15**.

E. **Slide#8a** As we read these 3 verses listen to Paul's **Triple-Heart-Check!**

1. Is your life **Consecrated**/set apart to God?
2. Are you allowing God to **Transform** you?
3. Are you **Evaluating** yourself accurately to know how you can best serve others?
 - a) **Read** vs.1-3.

F. **Slide#8b Outline:** **Consecration, Transformation, & Evaluation.**

III. **Slide#9 CONSECRATION! (1)**

- A. **Present** – is a technical term for presenting a sacrifice, literally meaning “to place beside” for any purpose. (LKGNT)
- B. **Present your bodies** – characterized by conscience, intelligent, consecrated devotion to the service of God. (LKGNT)
 1. **Slide#10** William Booth said, I will tell you the secret: God has had all that there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, even with greater

¹ Charles Swindoll, Romans 12-16, pg.2

opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and caught a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with me and them, on that day I made up my mind that God should have **all** of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army, it is because God has had **all** the adoration of my heart, **all** the power of my will, and **all** the influence of my life.

C. **Slide#11 Living sacrifice** – We usually think of sacrifices as something that is **dead**.

1. We're **dead** in the sense that we no longer live for ourselves, **but** we're **alive** in that we now live for God.
2. Many will boast, *they'd die for Christ...but* what He wants to know is *Will you live for Him?*
3. **What is the problem with living sacrifices?** (they keep crawling off the altar)
 - a) Don't be defeated if you find yourself "*off the altar*" saint.
 - b) **Consecration is a process.** It takes daily, even hourly, commitment to live for God.
 - c) Don't ask, "*Have I presented myself*", **but** "**am I presenting myself?**"
4. It's daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him!

D. **Slide#12 Holy** – or consecrated, or set apart, or living a "*reserved for God*" life!

1. Maybe it can be described when we take a **blank sheet of paper & sign our name** at the bottom of it, **and then let God fill it in** as He will.
2. It's what Oswald Chambers called, "*giving up my right to myself.*"
3. **Listen to the seriousness of consecration...**
 - a) **Slide#13 OT** - Numb.3:11-13 **And the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I have chosen the Levites from among the Israelites to serve as substitutes for all the firstborn sons of the people of Israel. The Levites belong to me, for all the firstborn males are mine. On the day I struck down all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians, I set apart for myself all the firstborn in Israel, both of people and of animals. They are mine; I am the Lord."**
 - b) **NT** - 1 Pet.2:9 **you** are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, **God's very own possession.** As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

E. **Reasonable service** – or literally, *rational worship!*

1. It has been said of us **Americans** that we have **three idols: Size, Noise, & Speed!**
2. **Worship runs in the opposite direction of these 3: It reminds us** of our littleness. **It reminds us** to be still & know He is God. **It reminds us** we need to wait upon the Lord

IV. **Slide#14 TRANSFORMATION! (2)**

A. *Avoid Worldly Contamination & Achieve Godly Transformation.*

B. **Conformed** – to be formed or molded.

1. **To this world/age** – **This age cannot & must not** serve as a model for Christian living!

- a) Our world is presently screaming:
- (1) **Conformity** - Don't claim Christ is the *Only* way!
 - (2) **Tolerance** - Why are those who fight for Tolerance, so intolerant to those who don't share their view? - Just ask Dan Cathy, **Chick-Fil-a's** president, saying that his company supports "*the biblical definition of the family unit*".
 - (3) **Truth is not Absolute but subjective** - Simply ask those who say, "*There is no such thing as absolutes!*" If they are absolutely sure?
 - (4) **Same-sex Marriage Partners; All religions are the same; Don't vote your morals; etc.**

2. "Nothing can kill our church faster than if it becomes **conformed** to this world."

a) We are a **group** "of **individuals**". So yes, this is speaking specifically of **you!**

b) Will *one person* conformed to the world have an affect on our church?

(1) Will one diseased fish affect the whole tank?

C. **Slide#15 Transformed** – in your innermost nature. (LKGNT)

1. D.L.Moody used to say, *The Scriptures were not given for our **information**, but for our **transformation**.*

2. **Pressed cookies** are *conformed*; **butterflies** are *transformed*.

3. **Slide#16** J.B. Phillips Translation says, *Don't let the world around you **squeeze you into its mold**, but let God **re-make you** so that your whole attitude of mind is **changed**.*

a) Hey CM, the world is looking at our lives to see a difference...Are they seeing one?

(1) **Dare to be different!**

4. **So how are we transformed then?** It is **the Spirit of God** that transforms our life by renewing our mind.

a) 2 Cor.3:18 (NIV) **And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from **the Lord**, who is **the Spirit**.**

5. **Slide#17,18** **So, be released** from the control of this world around you, & **come to know** what God has in mind for you!

a) **It's** living a life that is committed to excellence. **It's** living above the level of mediocrity. **It's** living unshackled lives. **It's Living Unchained!**

D. **Acceptable** – Sacrifices offered to God are not enough in themselves.

1. The offerings must be acceptable to Him.

V. **Slide#19 EVALUATION! (3)**

A. Now that you've *Avoided Worldly Contamination, Achieved Godly Transformation, now Assess a Proper Evaluation.*

B. Most of us lack an honest assessment of ourselves.

1. We constantly need to **Keep a check on pride!**
2. **Slide#20,21 Illustration:** On a visit to the **Beethoven museum** in Bonn, a young American student became fascinated by the piano on which Beethoven had composed some of his greatest works. She asked the museum guard if she could play a few bars on it; she accompanied the request with a lavish tip, and the guard agreed. The girl went to the piano and tinkled out the opening of the Moonlight Sonata. As she was leaving she said to the guard, "I suppose all the great pianists who come here want to play on that piano." The guard shook his head. "Padarewski [the famed Polish pianist] was here a few years ago and he said **he wasn't worthy to touch it.**"

C. **Think soberly** – The metaphor suggests *intoxication*.

1. They were in danger of becoming "egoholics!"
 - a) A man who had a high opinion of himself stepped on a coin-operated scale that dispensed a card, giving his weight and comments about his personality. After reading the card, he handed it to his wife and said, "Here, look at this!" She took it and read aloud, "You are dynamic, a born leader, handsome, and much admired by women for your personality." Giving it a second look, she added, "Hmmm, I see it's got your weight wrong too!"
2. Don't think **more** highly of yourself, or **less** highly, just have a **proper** estimate of who you are.
3. **The balance?** We are **neither** "*Captain Indispensable*", **nor** "*wormy the worthless*"!
4. Interesting, "accepting ourselves precedes giving ourselves!"
 - a) We have to know & accept our abilities & our limitations!
5. **Slide#22 Illustration: Hudson Taylor** was scheduled to speak at a large Presbyterian church in Melbourne, Australia. The moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as "**our illustrious guest.**" Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, "Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master."

D. *What you believe must determine how you behave!*

E. **Slide#23,24 End:** We started in the beginning with a quote from Braveheart. Another great line from a different movie was in Gladiators, by Maximus (Russel Crowe) who said, "What we do in life echoes in eternity!"

1. **Do you believe that Christian?** "*What we do in life echoes in eternity!*"