

Romans 12:2 - “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 12:2** ▶

Romans 12 Interlinear

2532 [e]	3361 [e]	4964 [e]	3588 [e]	165 [e]	3778 [e]	235 [e]	3339 [e]	3588 [e]	
kai	mē	syschēmatizesthe	tō	aiōni	toutō	alla	metamorphousthe	tē	
2	καὶ	μὴ	συσχηματίζεσθε*	τῷ	αἰῶνι	τούτῳ	, ἀλλὰ	μεταμορφοῦσθε	τῇ
	And	not	be conformed	to the	age	this	but	be transformed	by the
	Conj	Adv	V-PMM/P-2P	Art-DMS	N-DMS	DPro-DMS	Conj	V-PMM/P-2P	Art-DFS

342 [e]	3588 [e]	3563 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	1381 [e]	4771 [e]	5101 [e]	3588 [e]	2307 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
anakainōsei	tou	noos	eis	to	dokimazein	hymas	ti	to	thelēma	tou	Theou
ἀνακαινώσει	τοῦ	νοός	, εἰς	τὸ	δοκιμάζειν	ὑμᾶς	, τί	τὸ	θέλημα	τοῦ	Θεοῦ
renewing	of the	mind	for	-	to prove	by you	what [is]	-	will	-	of God
N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	Art-ANS	V-PNA	PPro-A2P	IPro-NNS	Art-NNS	N-NNS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

3588 [e]	18 [e]	2532 [e]	2101 [e]	2532 [e]	5046 [e]
to	agathon	kai	euareston	kai	teleion
τὸ	ἀγαθὸν	, καὶ	εὐάρεστον	, καὶ	τέλειον
the	good	and	well-pleasing	and	perfect
Art-NNS	Adj-NNS	Conj	Adj-NNS	Conj	Adj-NNS

- In 12:1 we are “urged” in the imperative to “offer ourselves as living sacrifices”
- In 12:2 we are told (taught, explained, instructed) HOW TO achieve the command of 12:1
- The verbs switch from **aorist** (in 12:1 which conveys point of action in the past. The action is viewed as a completed whole or a one-time action.) to **present tense** which conveys the necessity of continual application and attention. If not the original state of commitment will be weakened and ineffective.
- We can only offer our bodies (ourselves) to God’s service and God’s will if we renew our mind and stop serving him in the ways of this world.
- NOTE: 12:1 is the body (members) and 12:2 is the mind.

“**This world**” is *aion* which means “age” or “this age”.

- “World” is commonly identified as kosmos
- Galatians 1:4, “who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil **age**.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:4, “The god of this **age** has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the glory of the gospel of Christ.”
- Hebrews 6:5, “...who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming **age**,...”

- We live in this world (age, kosmos) to be a witness to it of the Truth, not to be conformed to the pattern of this dark age
 - 1 Corinthians 7:31, “those who use the things of the **world**, as if not engrossed in them. For this **world** in its present form is passing away.”
- Salvation in Christ does NOT isolate us from the influence of this dark, dead, sinful world that is in rebellion to God’s will.

“Do not conform”

- This command builds on Romans 5-8
- “Conform” is in the present tense which means these believers were “conforming”. The translation of “do not conform” could also be written as a command, “STOP conforming!” (Paul does remain positive towards the Romans spiritual condition and growth throughout the letter.)

“Be transformed” - metamorphoo

- The opposite of being conformed to this world is to be transformed into something else and transformed away from this world.
- In the Greek the resistance to conforming and the process of being transformed is:
 - Simultaneous
 - Ongoing
 - Continual renunciation and continual renewal
- Interesting the same Greek word for “transformed” is used in Mark 9:2,3) where Jesus was “transfigured” - “There he was transfigured before them.”
- “Be transformed” is clearly passive

“Renewing of your mind”

- This is the means that the “transforming” takes place
- “Mind” refers to “practical reason” and “moral consciousness”
- This clearly means to adjust the you think about everything so that it comes into the light of this new life and the revealed Word of God that had been hidden from the Pagans.
- Some commentators call it the “re-programming” of the mind. And, this is a lifetime process as every area of life is examined, turned over and brought into the light of the knowledge of God
- Romans 1:28 says God’s judgment and wrath include giving people over to a “worthless” mind.
 - The “worthless” mind is a mind that is “unqualified” (**adokimos**) to access and assess the Truth in the revealed Word and in God’s natural created order.
 - NOTE: **adokimos** is the negative of **dokimazo** which is here translated “**approve**”

“God’s will”

- John 6:38 - “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”
- We are to do God’s will for our lives

“Test” and “Approve”

- **Dokimazo**
- “Approve” means to both understand and agree with what God’s desire, plan, will is for a particular situation.
- This ability to dokimazo then gives you the ability to practically put into practice what God’s will is or what God would want in that situation.
- If it was easy then everyone would be doing God’s will instantly and with little effort immediately after responding to an altar call or getting saved.
- Paul would have understood the Holy Spirit being very active in this process according to Romans 8:4-9

“Renewing of your mind”

- Ephesians 5:10-11 - “Find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

“Good, pleasing and perfect will”

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- A better translation might place the article “the thing” in front of “good, pleasing, perfect”
 - So, the translation would then be: “the thing that is good and pleasing and perfect.”
- The point is that after the believer’s mind is renewed they will be able to decide what God’s will is for a particular situation.
- The renewed mind will be able to:
 - Decide what is good
 - Discern what is pleasing to God
 - Identify (and, perform) what is perfect in God’s will

God’s will cannot be reduced to a set of rules.

Ephesians 4:11-24