



OCTOBER 27

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

THE VIEW FROM HERE



GETTING STARTED

In the message this weekend, we continued our study of Romans by moving into chapter 12. We looked at what it means to offer our lives as an act of worship to God and explored the way He transforms our minds.

As you begin this study, reflect on the verses from the message. Write down anything the Lord highlights for you.

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. Do 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.

Romans 12:1-2



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Before we dive into questions from the message this weekend, how was Encounter for you? What did you experience? How did the Lord speak to you through the study and Encounter night?
2. As you think back over the message this weekend, what were one or two things that were highlighted for you?
3. In the weekend message, one of the topics Joel focused on was God's mercy. When you hear about God's mercy, what is your initial reaction? What do you think it means for God to be merciful?
 - a. Read the following Bible verses about mercy
 - Lamentations 3:22-24
 - Micah 6:8
 - Psalm 23:6
 - Luke 6:32-36
 - Hebrews 4:14-16
 - James 2:12-13

- b. Considering these verses, what does God say about mercy?
 - c. How have you experienced the mercy of God? How have you shown mercy to others?
 - d. Is there anything in your life that impedes your view of God's mercy? If so, what is it?
4. Joel mentioned that for our minds to be renewed we often wrestle with God, then surrender to Him, and eventually we embrace what He is doing in our lives. How have you seen this play out in your life?
- a. What excuses have you possibly made in the past when God started to point out an area He wanted to transform? Then, how did God break through those excuses to bring about transformation?
 - b. Are there any "patterns of this world" currently in your life that you are living out instead of letting God renew your mind? If so, what are they?
5. Joel explained Paul's meaning behind these words from Romans 12:2, "His good, pleasing, and perfect will," in this way:
- *Good: it is as it should be*
 - *Pleasing: it is satisfying*
 - *Perfect: it is complete and fulfilling*
- a. Which of these three aspects of God's will is hardest for you to believe? What is easiest for you to believe? Why do you think that is?
 - b. What is a time in your life (or maybe you are in one now) when it was hard to surrender to God's will? What was the fruit once you did surrender?
6. During the message, Joel said that we should stop being who we once were before we came to Christ and should instead start looking to the One (Jesus) whom we are to become like. Read Hebrews 12:1-2.
- a. How do you think fixing our eyes on Jesus will help bring about our transformation?
 - b. To end the study this week, take a couple of minutes to pray and fix your eyes on Jesus, asking Him to transform you by the *renewing of your mind*.