

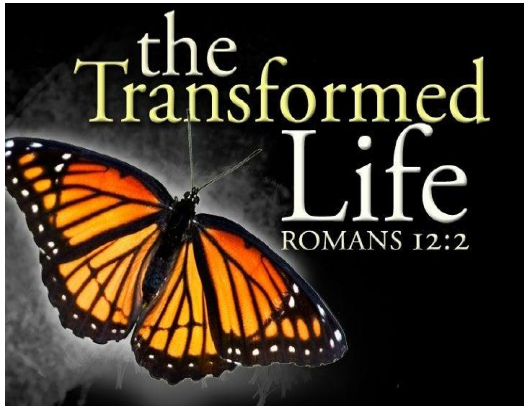


Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

May 12, 2024

"The Good News: Transformation of Heart and Mind"

"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 12:2)



Understanding the Good News: these words from Romans are important and instructive. Yet, sometimes when we read Scripture we don't always "get it" right away. We go back, read word-for-word and phrase-by-phrase, and sit and think, waiting hopefully for the Spirit to enlighten us. Even then perhaps we still have questions...

Romans 12:2 tells us not to conform to this world's but "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"? How do we stop from "conforming", going along with the pattern of this world? Don't we have to play by our society's and culture's rules?

→ **Non-conformity:** We should not passively adopt the patterns, values, and behaviors of the world around us. Instead, we are called to resist conformity to societal norms that may conflict with God's principles. And where do we find these principles? In the Bible, the commandments, and especially Jesus' teaching in the Gospels.

→ **Transformation:** Rather than conforming, we undergo a radical transformation. This transformation occurs through the renewal of our minds. It's not merely external behavior change but an internal shift in our thinking, perspectives, and priorities...and developing the practice of mindfulness.

→ **Renewing of our minds:** This renewal involves mindfully aligning our thoughts with God's truth. How? By immersing ourselves in Scripture, prayer, and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance. It means consciously replacing worldly mindsets with God's perspective.

→ **Freedom from Cultural Pressures:** Yes, we must engage with society and culture, but we don't blindly follow society's rules. Instead, we navigate life based on God's intentions for us. This doesn't mean isolation either; we are still "in this world." We live the Good News as counter-cultural agents of God's kingdom "in the world."

Final Comments: Romans 12:2 invites us to live differently—transformed by God's truth—so that we can live in accordance with God's will. It's a call to intentional, godly living rather than passive conformity. The Gospel becomes not just a belief system but a transformative force—a divine invitation to participate in the renewal of ourselves and all things. May it be so. Amen

- God's peace, Vance

Prayer Box: On this Mother's Day pray for all mothers and all those who have mothered children; pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East; pray for those harmed by extreme weather; pray for an end to the divisiveness in our country; pray for those suffering from depression; pray for all struggling families; pray for all who grieve; pray for those who are traveling, especially Maggie, Vance, and Bill; pray for healing for Gail, Barbara, Keith, Mia, Elizabeth, MaryBeth, Jazmine, Patti, Joyce, Joe, Florence, Debbie, and John; give thanks for a new baby, Tali, and parents Dan and Jocelyn. *Lord, hear our prayers!*