

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

YOU ARE CALLED BY GOD TO CONFORM YOUR LIFE TO HIS PATTERN

Romans 12:2 “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.”

By the Gospel, God has called you to a new and different life than the world would have you live. As a believer in Him, through His Son Jesus, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 makes the point that your life is to be different from that of an unbeliever, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”

There are many options for you to choose regarding the manner in which you will live your life. Today’s devotional verse says there is one pattern to not live by, namely, the pattern of the world. The world would have you engage in a great variety of activities that will lead you into disobedience of God and to your eternal condemnation.

Instead, Paul writes, pray that God will change your life from living as the world does to seeking His Spirit to lead you onto right paths that are pleasing to Him. In Ephesians 5:17-20 St. Paul addresses this same topic with these words, “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Peter says this about your new life in Christ, “you . . . are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. . .” (1 Peter 2:5) and St. Paul wrote in Romans 12:1 “. . . in view of God’s mercy. . .offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Prayer: Guide me, dear Jesus, through my earthly life even to life everlasting with You. Amen.

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.
(LSB 918)