

New Testament Recovery Version

Study Guide

Book VI

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL

TO THE

ROMANS

BRINGING SAINTS INTO THE TRUTH

THERE IS THE DESPERATE NEED OF THE LIVING TRUTH

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands during the past 2,000 years since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air and nothing could be solid. Even the things concerning the Spirit could not be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word. This is why the Lord said that the words that He spoke to us are spirit (John 6:63)... Without the Word the Spirit might be just “a phantom.” ... whenever people contact the holy Word, many times they get the Spirit ... A principle has been set up through history that there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church exist, and to build up the church.

THE MOST PROFITABLE WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE THE LIFE-STUDY MESSAGES WITH THE NOTES OF THE RECOVERY VERSION

Through the past ten years up to the present time it has been fully proven among us that the most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the notes of the Recovery Version. I wrote these things, not for scholarly study for people to get a degree, but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible.

THIS IS NOT TO REPLACE THE BIBLE, BUT TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE BIBLE

The holy Word itself says in Psalm 119:130: “The opening of Your words gives light,”... Nearly everywhere you go today you find a Bible, but who has entered into the Bible? There has nearly been no entrance. Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study

messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible.

SPENDING AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES IN THE WORD EVERY DAY

We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word.... Some saints may decide to study the book of Romans or the book of Hebrews. They should study every day either three times of ten minutes each or one time of thirty minutes. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day. Then they have to study the accompanying message.... The saints do not need to pray-read the Life-study messages, but they have to pray-read the biblical verses in order to get the help to enter into the truth conveyed in these few verses. They also need the help of the notes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth.

AFTER ONE YEAR OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE A SOLID CHANGE

After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints' home life, private life, and church life.

Therefore, as leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord's truth. Tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the notes and all the Life-studies. Of course, we should not practice anything legal. We should not make these things a legal matter that the saints are required to do. However, if the saints do love the Lord's recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food that they may be strong. As a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong and the Lord will have a strong testimony. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, pp. 102-104, 108-111*)

Week 1 Day 1 Rom. 1:1-7

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom. 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

By resurrection His _____ was sanctified, _____, and transformed. Hence, by resurrection He was _____ the Son of God with His humanity (Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5). His _____ was His designation...In this way the only begotten Son of God was made the _____ Son of God, possessing both divinity and humanity. God is using such a Christ, the firstborn Son, who possesses both divinity and humanity, as the producer and as the _____, the model, to produce His _____ sons (8:29-30) — we who have believed in and _____ His Son. We too will be _____ and revealed as the sons of God, as He was in the glory of His resurrection (8:19, 21), and with Him we will _____ God. (See Rom. 1:4 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 1-2.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 2 Rom. 1:8-32

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In John 3:16 God's _____ is the source and motive of God's salvation. In Eph. 2:5, 8 God's _____ is the means of God's salvation. In Rom. 1:17 God's righteousness is the _____ of God's salvation. God's righteousness, which is solid and steadfast, is the _____ of His throne (Psa. 89:14) and the base on which His kingdom is built (Rom. 14:17). Legally, both _____ and _____ can fluctuate, but righteousness cannot. It is even more so with God's righteousness. It is _____ righteousness, not ours, that is revealed in the gospel of God. Hence, the gospel is the _____ of God unto salvation to everyone who _____. (See Rom. 1:17 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 2-3.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 3 Rom. 2:1-29

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The nature of man, as created by God, was originally _____ and corresponded with God and with His law. Although it was poisoned by the fall, this good _____ remains within man. Hence, if anyone lives according to his nature and does by his nature the things of the _____, the _____ in him will be restricted.

Man's _____ corresponds with the God-created human _____ and enables man to know what God justifies and what He _____. (See. Rom. 2:14 note 1, 15 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 3-4.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 4 Rom. 3:1-31

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain the intrinsic meaning of “the faith of Jesus Christ”.
2. Please explain what it means by “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.
3. Please explain how Christ Jesus satisfied God's righteous requirement as a propitiation place.

Answer:

1. See Rom. 3:22 note 1.
2. See Rom. 3:23 note 1.
3. See Rom. 3:25 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 4-5.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 5 Rom. 4:1-25

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 4:13 For *it was* not through the law *that* the promise was *made* to Abraham or to his seed that he would be the heir of the world, but through the righteousness of faith.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The law was God's temporary economy (_____) for man in the Old Testament, since it was added temporarily because of man's _____; the faith is God's _____ economy (dispensation) for man in the New Testament, because it is based on God's _____ plan. In the Old Testament God dealt with man according to the _____. If, according to that dispensation of God, man would have done what God commanded in the law, he would have obtained righteousness, that is, the righteousness of the law, the righteousness which is out of the _____. In the New Testament God deals with man according to the _____. If, according to this dispensation of God, man believes in _____, the One in whom God has ordained that man should believe, he will obtain righteousness. (*See Rom. 4:13 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 6-8*

Note:

Week 1 Day 6 Rom. 5:1-11

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is grace?
2. What is our hope of glory?
3. How to be saved in His life?

Answer:

1. See Rom. 5:2 note 2.
2. See Rom. 5:2 note 5.
3. See Rom. 5:10 note 4.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 9, 40-45*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The gift of righteousness erases judgment. _____ comes from sin, but righteousness comes from _____. Righteousness always accompanies grace and is its result. _____ righteousness comes from grace, and grace comes from _____ righteousness.

Through justification we have come up to the _____ of God's righteousness and correspond with it, so that now He can _____ His life to us. Justification changes our outward _____; life changes our inward _____. Justification unto life indicates that life is the focus of this chapter and that the organic _____ of life is an _____ of justification. (See Rom. 5:17 note 2, 18 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 10, 33-36, 46-49.*

Note:

What is justification? Justification means that the righteousness of God has been manifested. Although the righteousness of God has existed for ages, it was not manifested to us until we believed in the Lord and called on His name. Then the righteousness of God was revealed to us. When God's righteousness is revealed, it is manifested. It is manifested to us when we believe in the Lord Jesus.

According to our experience, it was not God who firstly approved us, but we who approved God. We do not know how much time God spent to convince us of His righteousness. We were rebellious and said, "I don't like God. God is not right." We all thought this way before we were saved. Many people speak against God saying, "If God is right, why are there so many poor people on the earth? If God is right, why is there no justice among the nations?" They admit that there is God, but claim that He is not righteous. Many of us can testify the same thing, confessing that we thought God was wrong, that He was not righteous. However, God has been patient with us, doing many things for us until He finally convinced us of His righteousness. Who justified whom first? We firstly justified God. When we were convinced by God of His righteousness, we justified Him and wept in repentance, saying, "God, forgive me. I'm so sinful and unclean. I need Your forgiveness." When we called on the name of the Lord Jesus, we not only were put into Christ but upon Christ. Now we are upon Christ as our propitiation place where God and we can justify one another. We declare, "God, You are righteous. I have no problem with You." Then God replies, "Dear child, I have no problem with you either." Firstly, we approved God; then God approved us. We justified God; then God justified us.

Because of this, boasting is excluded. None of us has anything of which to boast. We have not been justified by the law of works, but by the law of faith (3:27). This faith does not originate with us; it is of the living Christ. (Life-Study of Romans, pp.57, 60-61, 63)

Week 2 Day 1 Rom. 6:1-23

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 6:5 For if we have grown together with *Him* in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This denotes an organic union in which growth takes place, so that one partakes of the _____ and _____ of the other. In the organic union with Christ, whatever Christ passed through has become our _____. His death and resurrection are now ours because we are in Him and are organically joined to Him. This is _____ (11:24). Such a grafting (1) discharges all our _____ elements, (2) resurrects our God-created _____, (3) _____ our faculties, (4) _____ our faculties, and (5) saturates our entire being to _____ us. (*See Rom. 6:5 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 11.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 2 Rom. 7:1-25

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 7:23 But I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and making me a captive to the law of sin which is in my members.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

There are three different _____ in the three different parts of the believer's being. As revealed in chs. 7 and 8, these three laws derive from the three parties in the universe. The law of sin and death in the believer's members, that is, in his _____, derives from _____, who as sin dwells in the believer's _____. The law of _____ in the believer's mind (v. 23), that is, in his soul, derives from the natural human _____, that is, from man himself. The law of the Spirit of life in the believer's _____ derives from _____, who as the _____ dwells in his spirit. These three parties with the three laws are now present in the believer.. In addition to the three laws within the believer, there is the _____ of _____ outside of him. (*See Rom. 7:23 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 12-13, 37-38.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 3 Rom. 8:1-6

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The spiritual life revealed in Rom. 8 is _____. First, it was the divine life in the _____ (v. 2). Second, it became life in our _____ through regeneration (v. 10). Then from our spirit it saturates our _____ for the transformation of our soul, to which our mind belongs, and becomes the life in our _____ (v. 6). Eventually, it will permeate our _____ and become the life in our body (v. 11), ultimately issuing in the transfiguration of our body (Phil. 3:21), that is, the _____ of our body. (See Rom. 8:2 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 14-16, 39.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 4 Rom. 8:7-27

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In this verse we have (1) the entire _____ God — "the One who raised Jesus from the dead," " _____," and "His _____ who indwells you"; (2) the process required for His dispensing, as implied in the words *Jesus* (emphasizing _____), *Christ* (emphasizing crucifixion and _____), and *raised* (emphasizing resurrection); and (3) His _____ of Himself into the believers, as shown by the words *give _____ to your mortal bodies*, which indicate that the dispensing not only occurs at the _____ of our being but also reaches to the circumference, to our _____ being. (See Rom. 8:11 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 17-19.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 5 Rom. 8:28-39

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God has predestinated us not simply that we may be sanctified, _____, and victorious but that we may be fully conformed to the _____ of His Son.

_____ is the end result of transformation. It includes the changing of our _____ essence and nature, and it also includes the changing of our _____ form, that we may match the glorified image of _____, the God-man. He is the _____ and we are the mass production. Both the inward and the outward changes in us, the product, are the result of the operation of the law of the _____ of _____ (v. 2) in our being. (*See Rom. 8:29 note 2, note 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 20-21.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 6 Rom. 9:1-10:3

I. Key Verses:

Rom. 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

Rom. 9:24 *Even us*, whom He has also called...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This indicates that God chose us that we might be vessels of honor to _____ Him. God created man as a _____ to contain Him, and out of the many vessels He chose us to contain Him, the God of honor, that we might be vessels of _____. Finally, He makes known His _____ upon us, the vessels, that we might become vessels of His glory (Rom. 9:23). All this is out of His _____ and according to His mercy; it cannot be obtained by our _____. For this reason we must _____ Him, and we must worship Him for His _____! (*See Rom. 9:21 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 22.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is *Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him.

Rom. 10:13 For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Rom. 10:12 shows that God selects us, redeems us, justifies us, _____ us, conforms us, and glorifies us in Christ in order that we may enjoy His unsearchable _____ in Christ (Eph. 3:8). The secret to this enjoyment is to _____ on His name.

Calling on the name of the Lord is the secret not only to our _____ but also to our enjoyment of the Lord's _____. Beginning with _____, the third generation of mankind, and continuing all the way down to the New Testament _____, God's chosen and redeemed ones enjoyed Christ's redemption and salvation and all His _____ by means of this secret. (See Rom. 10:12 note 1, 13 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans* Msg. 23.

Note:

[Romans 8] verse 11 says, "But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from among the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from among the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who indwells you." The Spirit in this verse is the Spirit of resurrection. We have seen that our spirit is life (v. 10) and that our mind also is life (v. 6). Now we come to the last item of our being, our mortal body. Our body is dying. However, life is given even to our dying mortal body. Our body can participate in this life, be sustained with this life, and be supplied with this life through His Spirit who indwells us. Undoubtedly, the indwelling Spirit is the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17). Christ as the indwelling Spirit constantly imparts life to every aspect of our being.

An excellent illustration of this is electricity. Although electricity has been installed into a building, its flow can be frustrated. Christ, the life-giving Spirit, has been installed into our being as the heavenly electricity. However, only a small part of our being gives Him a free course; most of our being is not open to Him, but rather frustrates Him. For example, your emotions may be a frustration to Christ. Therefore, Christ has difficulty imparting Himself as life into your emotions. You need to pray, "Lord, deal with my emotions. Break through my emotions that You may impart Yourself as life into them." We need this kind of experience. Do not take this as a doctrine or teaching. This must be put into practice. If you practice this, you will find that Christ as life is now in your spirit, waiting for an opportunity to spread Himself into every area and avenue of your being. He is waiting to penetrate the hidden parts of your being. If you open yourself to Him, He will even impart Himself as life into your mortal body, making you a person who is filled with all the riches of His life.

We need to say, "Hallelujah! I am not a debtor to the flesh. I don't owe it anything. I am not obliged to it. I am discharged from it and freed from it. I have been fully liberated from this hopeless thing called the flesh. I am not a debtor to the flesh to live according to it any longer." (*Life-Study of Romans*, pp.198-200)

Week 3 Day 1 Rom. 11:1-36

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Grafting produces an organic _____ (see note 5¹ in ch. 6). It is not the exchanging of a poor life for a better life. Rather, it is the uniting of two lives as one so that they may share one _____ life and one living. Such a mingling of life takes place when two _____ yet different lives pass through death (_____) and resurrection (_____). This depicts our union with Christ.

They and Israel have become the branches of Christ, the true _____ (John 15:1, 5), and with Him the two have become the _____ that expresses the Triune God. (*See Rom. 11:17 note 1, note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 24.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 2 Rom. 12:1-8

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Transformation is the inward, _____ process in which God works to _____ His divine life and nature throughout every part of our being, particularly our _____, bringing _____ and His riches into our being as our new element and causing our old, _____ element to be gradually discharged. As a result, we will be _____ into His image (2 Cor. 3:18), that is, _____ to the image of the firstborn Son of God as His many brothers (Rom. 8:29). Thus we will be suitable for the _____ up of His Body.

All the _____ and the overcoming in Rom. chs. 12—16 also are the results of this transformation.. (*See Rom. 12:2 note 3, note 4*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 25-26.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 3 Rom. 12:9-13:14

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

A presented _____, a transformed _____, and a burning _____ — all three are indispensable to a proper church life. After we have presented our _____ for the church life, it is very easy for us to fall into the _____ of our mind in our soul, which results in our being damaged in the church life; therefore, our soul, and particularly the mind of our soul, needs to be _____. However, once our mind is transformed, we may easily fall into a _____ and dormant state. At that time we must be _____ in spirit that we may be stirred up and encouraged to go on in the church life in a positive way. (*See Rom. 12:11 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 27.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 4 Rom. 14:1-23

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the basis on which we receive the believers?
2. What does it mean when it say “ we will we stand before the judgment seat of God”?
3. Please explain the reality of God's kingdom in Romans 14:17.

Answer:

1. See Rom. 14:3 note 2.
2. See Rom. 14:10 note 1.
3. See Rom. 14:17 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 28-29.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 5 Rom. 15:1-24

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Paul's being a priest of the gospel of God to minister Christ to the _____ was a priestly _____ to God, and the Gentiles whom he gained through his gospel preaching were an _____ presented to God. By this priestly _____ many Gentiles, who were unclean and defiled, were sanctified in the Holy Spirit and became such an _____, acceptable to God. They were set _____ from things common and were _____ with God's nature and element, and were thus sanctified both positionally and dispositionally. (*See Rom. 15:16 note 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 29-30.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 6 Rom. 15:25 -16:16

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Four stations are revealed in this book: the matters covered in chapters 1–4 bring us in chapter 4 to the first station, the station of _____; chapters 5–8 lead us in chapter 8 to the second station, the station of _____; chapters 9–12 lead us in chapter 12 to the third station, the station of the _____ of Christ; and chapters 14–16 take us in chapter 16 to the fourth station, the station of the _____ expressed in different localities, the station of the practical _____ of the _____ of Christ in different localities. The churches are the _____ consummation of the complete salvation of the gospel of God revealed in this book, which was written not in the way of doctrine but in the way of _____. (*See Rom. 16:1 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 30.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

Rom. 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In Rom. 16:20, God promises that He will crush Satan under the _____ of those who live the church life, showing that the _____ of Satan is related to the church life. Dealing with Satan is a _____ matter, not an _____ matter. It is only when we have a _____ local church as the _____ expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet.

The church life enables us not only to crush Satan under our feet and to experience the God of _____ but also to enjoy the _____ grace of the Lord. (See Rom. 16:20 note 1, note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Romans Msg. 30-32, 60.*

Note:

Suppose that a person has a very pale complexion and that someone else, wishing to change his colorless complexion, applies some coloring to his skin. This, no doubt, produces an outward change, but it is not an organic change, a change in life. How then can a person truly have a colorful face? By daily absorbing into his body healthy food with the necessary organic elements. Because your body is a living organism, when an organic substance enters into it a chemical compound is formed organically by the process of metabolism. Gradually this inward process will change the coloration of your face. This change is not outward; it is a change from within, a change resulting from the process of metabolism.

According to the Bible, this metabolic change is termed transformation. In the process of transformation the life of Christ is added to our being. When His life, which is organic and filled with vitamins, permeates our being, a spiritual, chemical compound is formed. This changes our constitution both in nature and in form. This is transformation. It is not outward correction or external adjustment. It is absolutely an inward metabolic change in our organic element, a change in life and with life by the Lord Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). In the process of transformation the divine element is wrought into us. If we keep in mind this proper understanding of transformation as we approach Romans 12 through 16, we shall realize that this portion of the Word is altogether different from what our natural concept would lead us to believe it is.

The will mentioned in 12:2 is to have the church life. The house that you purchase, the job that you have, and the person that you marry should all depend on the church life. Even the clothes that you wear should depend on the church life. If you are right with the church life, you will know what you must do. Everything must be for the church life, for to have the church life is the unique will of God. This is good, well-pleasing, and perfect. And this is for the Body life. The presenting of our bodies, the transforming of our souls, and the renewing of our minds are all for the Body life. (Life-Study of Romans, pp.293-294, 302)