

Sermon Notes

City on a Hill: Romans 12

“Mind Renewal in a Mindless Age” – Romans 12:2

I. Introduction

A. The Text

1. Romans 12:1-2

II. Exposition

A. Key words

1. “Do not be conformed”
 - a. Carries with it the idea of a “scheme” or “pattern.”
2. “World”
 - a. Greek is *aion* and is better rendered as “age.”
 - b. The age is sinful – 2 Corinthians 4:4.
 - c. The sense is over the worldly thoughts, impulses, and aspirations of the current time period.
3. Alternate translations
4. James Boice – “Do not let the age in which you live force you into its scheme of thinking and behaving.”

B. What is worldliness?

1. Should not be relegated to holiness taboos such as drinking, smoking, or card playing.
2. Paul is more concerned about how Christians think about life rather than mere behavior, though right behavior will follow naturally if our thinking is set straight.
3. “Transformed” – Greek is *metamorpho*, which directly comes into English as metamorphosis.
 - a. Matt. 17:2; Mark 9:2; II Cor. 3:18
 - b. The Holy Spirit does the transforming, yet we must submit to His prompting.

III. Examining the philosophies of our age that shape our thinking.

A. Secularism

B. Humanism

1. Daniel 4:30-35

C. Relativism

D. Narcissism

E. Hedonism

F. Pragmatism

G. Materialism

IV. Contrast to Jesus

- A. He said of Himself – Matthew 8:20.
- B. He said to Pilot – John 18:36.
- C. Where He was born and died.

V. Points for Reflection

- A. Allow how you think to be changed by the Word of God.
- B. Do not pound the tent pegs of your life too far down into the ground.
- C. Meditate on the seven “isms” and how they may be choking the use of your time, talent and treasure in the work of the church.
- D. Let us prove the will of God.