

Today's Reading: Romans 11

What A God

By: Todd Hershberger

Romans 11:17–18

"...you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree..."

Just a wild olive shoot grafted into a tree rooted by God. You and me, wild bushes in a dry desert with no purpose, destined to dry up and die, yet the God of the universe chose to allow us to be grafted into His kingdom because of His grace and Mercy. What A God!

Be a branch! Branches have purpose, to bear fruit. You are rooted in Christ, bear fruit. "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" (John 15:5). Don't just be grafted, be purposeful. Share your story, use your gifts, make much of Him in your life. It's not about you, it's about who you are rooted in.

Prayer: God, THANK YOU for making a way for me. Help me to share your love, grace, and mercy in my life. I desire to be a branch that bears much fruit, give me wisdom in knowing what that looks like in my life.

Tomorrow's Reading: Romans 12

Today's Reading: Romans 12

Conformed or Transformed

By: Todd Hershberger

How should we live for Christ? What should our everyday life look like?

Paul begins to lay this out in Romans 12:2 "Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"

To be *conformed* is to be shaped from the outside in. It is external pressure producing surface-level change. In the Greek, this idea refers to something being shaped outwardly, like covering something up without changing what lies beneath. Jesus once used a similar image when He spoke about whitewashed tombs that looked clean on the outside but were filled with decay within.

To be *transformed*, however, is something entirely different. The Greek word Paul uses is **metamorphosis**—a change that happens from the inside out. This kind of transformation begins internally and works its way outward, affecting how we think, live, and respond to the world around us.

As we come to Christ, we are not called to simply try harder or improve ourselves externally. God invites us to allow Him to renew our minds, reshape our hearts, desires, and thinking. From that inner renewal, true and lasting change begins to emerge.

Prayer: Father, I desire to live transformed. May my actions, thoughts, and desires be driven by my love for you. Help others to see Christ in me. Today, may I live for you, transformed by your love.

Tomorrow's Reading: Romans 13

Today's Reading: Romans 13

Putting on Christ

By: Todd Hershberger

In the back half of Romans 13, Paul is very intentional in how we should live, "Putting on Christ".

- 1- We are to love others by avoiding sin (13:8-10) because there is no sin without a victim.
- 2- We are to look for opportunities to accomplish good (13:11-14) The world will make godly living neither easy or automatic.

Putting on Christ is a purposeful decision, not something that will happen automatically. Putting on Christ is like putting an emblem on our chest that reminds everyone, ourselves and everyone around us, that we belong to Him. Putting on Christ establishes a standard of conduct to which all of life must conform.

I had the opportunity to coach High School wrestling for several years. My longest coaching stint was at York High School. The singlets that our guys wore had a "Block Y" on the front. We always reminded our guys that win or lose, you represent the "Y" on your chest. This is what Paul is saying, as followers of Christ, we represent Christ. Live your life in such a way that it honors God.

Prayer: Help me, Father, to represent you with my life. Give me discernment to know my temptations and wisdom to avoid them. Help others to be able to Christ in me by my actions and words. Give me a strong testimony among those I know and am around. Thank you, father, for giving me the strength I need to live for you. Amen

Tomorrow's Reading: Romans 14

All In

“All In” Dabo Swinney used this slogan to spur his Clemson football teams to national championships. His goal was to get everyone to be “All In” on Clemson football, everyday they were to make decisions that benefited and represented Clemson Football. Be all in for Clemson, not yourself.

Paul, in Romans 14:8 tells Christians to be “All In”.

Romans 14:8

8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

This is another clear picture we see in God’s Word that a follower of Jesus is not someone for whom Jesus is part of their life. No, a follower of Jesus is someone for whom Jesus is their life. Everything in their life revolves around Him. Everything we think, everything we desire, everything we say it’s all focused on Him. 1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether we eat or drink, whatever we do, we do it all to the glory of God. We belong to God. Belong to Jesus. We live for Him, we die for Him. Everything revolves around Him. Our lives should be All In for Christ!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please help us to live this way. I pray for my own life today in everything I do may I see it as unto you, as for you, as in you, by your power in me. Just everything revolving around you. Give me clarity in my decisions and seek after you in everything.
Amen

Tomorrow’s Reading: Romans 15