

Worldview and Romans:
Being Transformed by the
Renewing of Your Minds

April 15, 2018

CityChurch of Ames/Des Moines

Romans 12:1-2

So, my dear family, this is my appeal to you by the mercies of God: offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Worship like this brings your mind into line with God's. What's more, don't let yourselves be squeezed into the shape dictated by the present age. Instead, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you can work out what God's will is—what is good, acceptable, and complete.

Overview of Romans

God's covenant faithfulness as context (1-4)

Believing in Jesus Christ changes worldview (5-8)

Israel shows God's plan continues (9-11)

Transformation comes through renewal in God's household (12-16)

What is Worldview?

- the way someone thinks about the world
- a comprehensive conception or apprehension of the world especially from a specific standpoint
- the way they see and understand the world, especially regarding issues such as politics, philosophy, and religion.

What is Worldview?

- the lenses through which you see and understand things
- the ways you think
- the perspectives that guide you

(some of which you might not even be aware)

What is Your Worldview?

Roman?

Greek?

Hebraic?

Maybe, somewhat,
but probably not all that helpful.

What is Your Worldview?

- Give a list of words that others would use to describe the lenses through which you see and understand things.
- Try to give a list of 5 words (preferably not phrases or sentences).
- Don't worry about putting them in any order of rank or priority.

What is Your Worldview?

- Heritage (family, nationality, ethnicity)
- Residence
- Vocation, profession, interests
- Age, gender, family role
- Religion, politics, sports

What is Your Worldview?

What is My Worldview?

White

Male

American

Christian

Cyclone

What is My Worldview?

- White (majority, non-specific)
- Male (adult, husband, father, son, brother)
- American (Western, Republican, Chicagoan, Ames, educated, affluent)
- Christian (evangelical, postmodern, Antioch, seminarian, church leader, house church)
- Cyclone (athletics, Panther, non-Hokeye)

What Parts Shape the Other Parts?

1. White, male, American, Christian Cyclone?
2. American, white, male, Cyclone Christian?
3. Christian white, male, American (who happens to like the Cyclones)?

What Parts Shape the Other Parts?

1. White, male, American, Christian Cyclone?
2. American, white, male, Cyclone Christian?
 - Christianity is shaped by my context
3. Christian white, male, American (who happens to like the Cyclones)?
 - Participation in context is shaped by my Christianity

What is Your Worldview?

Is Your Worldview
Being Transformed by the
Renewing of Your Mind
as a Christian?

How do You Know?

Romans 12:1-2

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Romans 5:1–8:39

The essence of Paul's argument (7 main points):

1. If God was faithful to His covenant promise to Abraham to bless all the families through the Messiah—available by faith through which we are part of His family—God will act in the end to deliver us, and we will reign with Christ as He fully sets up His kingdom.

2. Paul gives new shape to the storyline: Sin came in through one man Adam and shaped humanity; one man Jesus dealt with sin by His death and resurrection; the law came in to show us our connection with Adam and to point to Christ; and Christ has dealt with individual sin and will deal with the groaning of creation itself under sin in His coming kingdom. Thus, we must never return to our old fallen humanity and its worldview.

3. Therefore, live as a new people, with a new identity, and follow Christ (i.e. that “pattern of teaching” to which you were committed), committing yourselves to be used for the purposes of His covenant.

4. This new identity must become our new way of thinking—a whole new worldview—not the old law system, which while it was good, was also used to show us our sin, which is now dealt with in Christ and a whole new life has begun.

5. In this life we still groan, as does all creation, and the suffering we experience produces character, a clearer focus on God's purposes, and fixes our hope on the full inauguration of His kingdom.

6. But the Spirit comes along and helps us in our weakness, praying for us in ways we do not even know how to pray for (often we do not even clearly understand His plan and purposes). In addition, God works all things together for our good, marking us out in advance to be shaped into the image of His Son.

7. Finally, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ—not persecution, suffering, hardship, famine, etc.—from sharing fully in His coming kingdom. We are His global family.

1. God's covenant faithfulness as context.
2. Jesus Christ's pivotal role on the story line.
3. New people for God's purposes.
4. New worldview, even for religious people.
5. Groan in hope of full redemption to come.
6. Spirit is active according to God's plan.
7. Nothing can separate us from Christ's love.

What is Your Worldview?

Is Your Worldview
Being Transformed by the
Renewing of Your Mind?

How do You Know?

What is My Worldview?

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What is Your Worldview?

White

Male

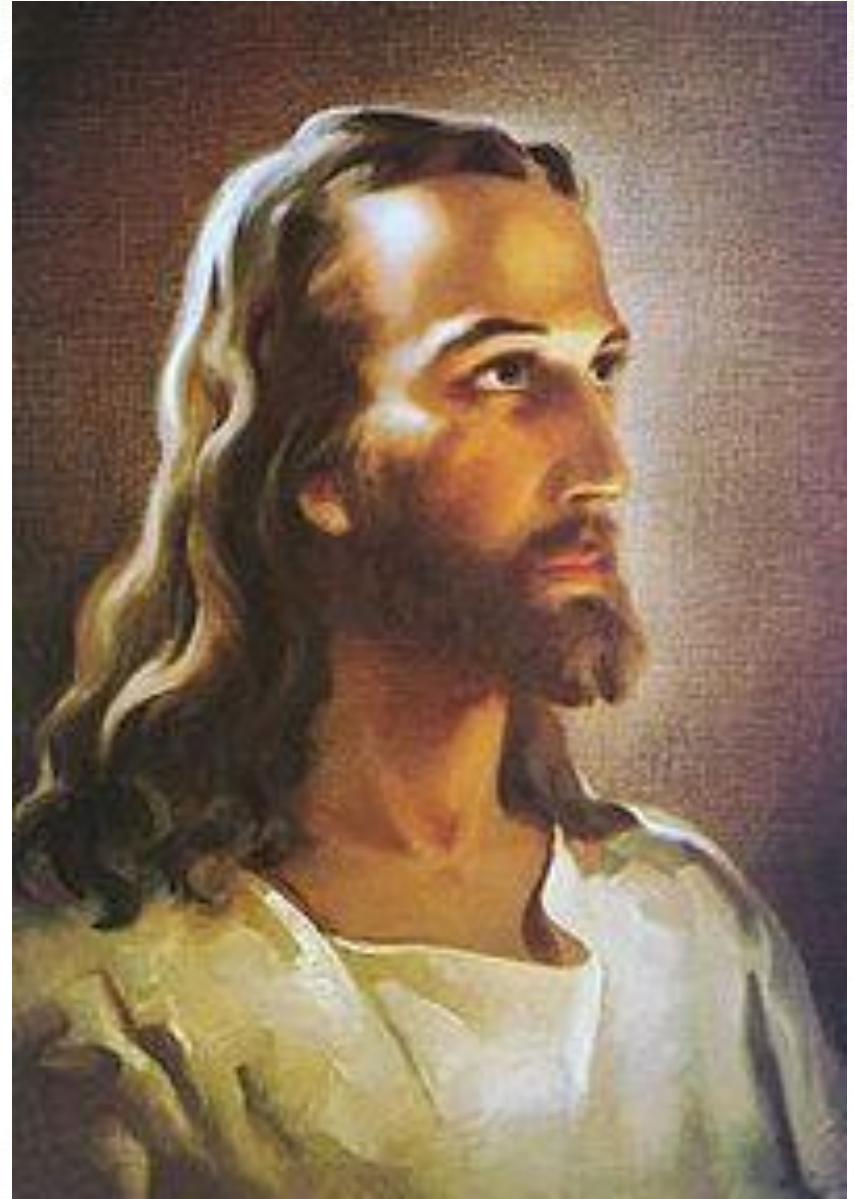
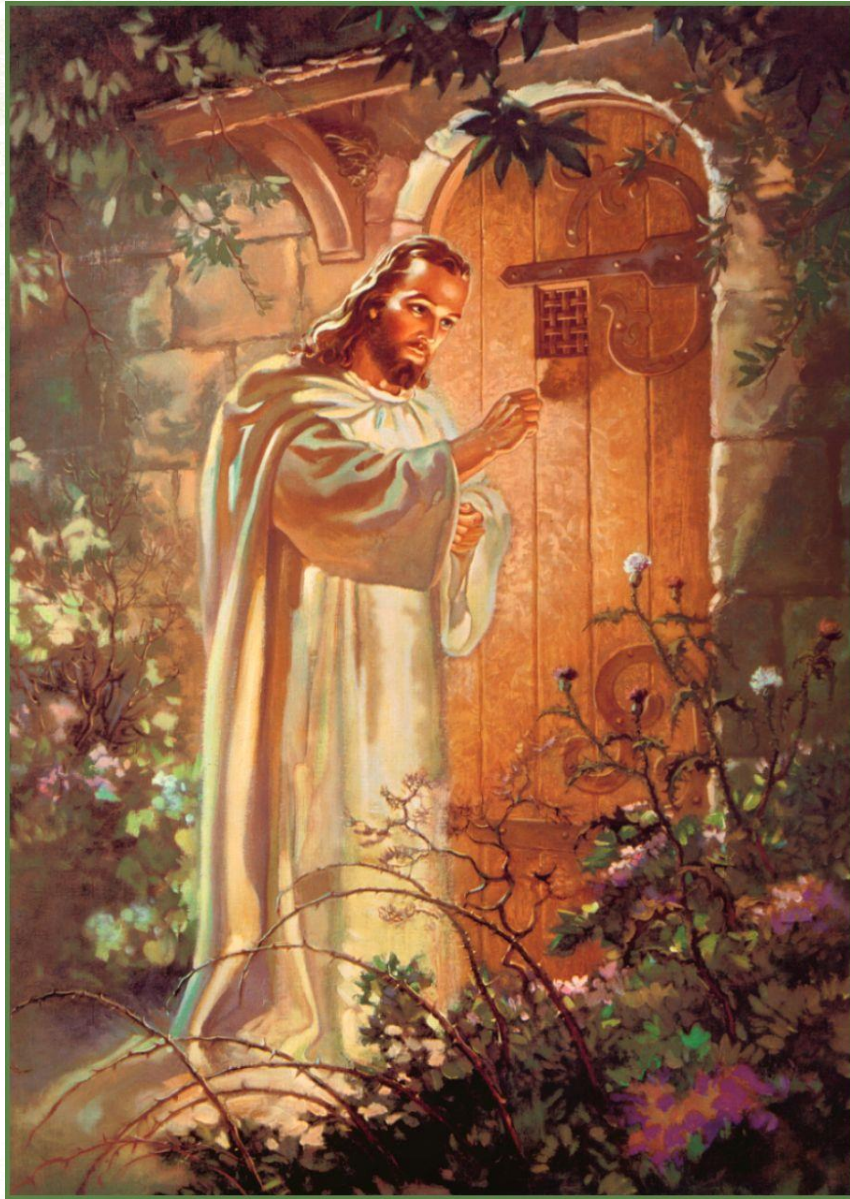
American

Christian

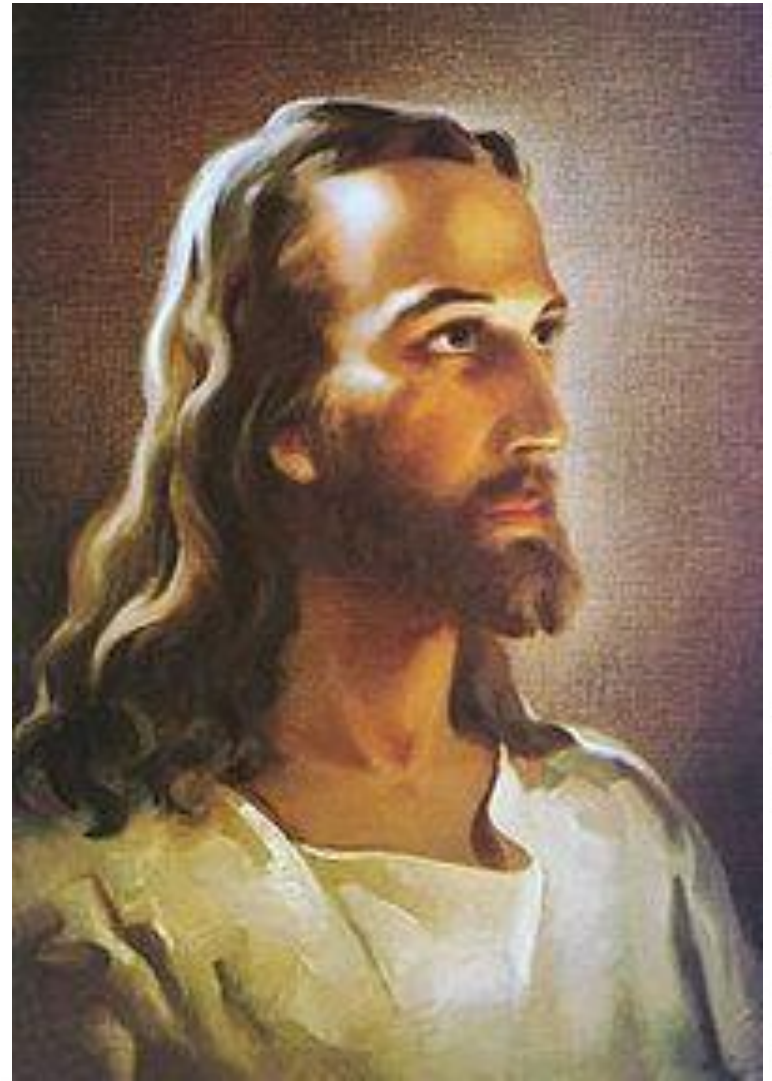
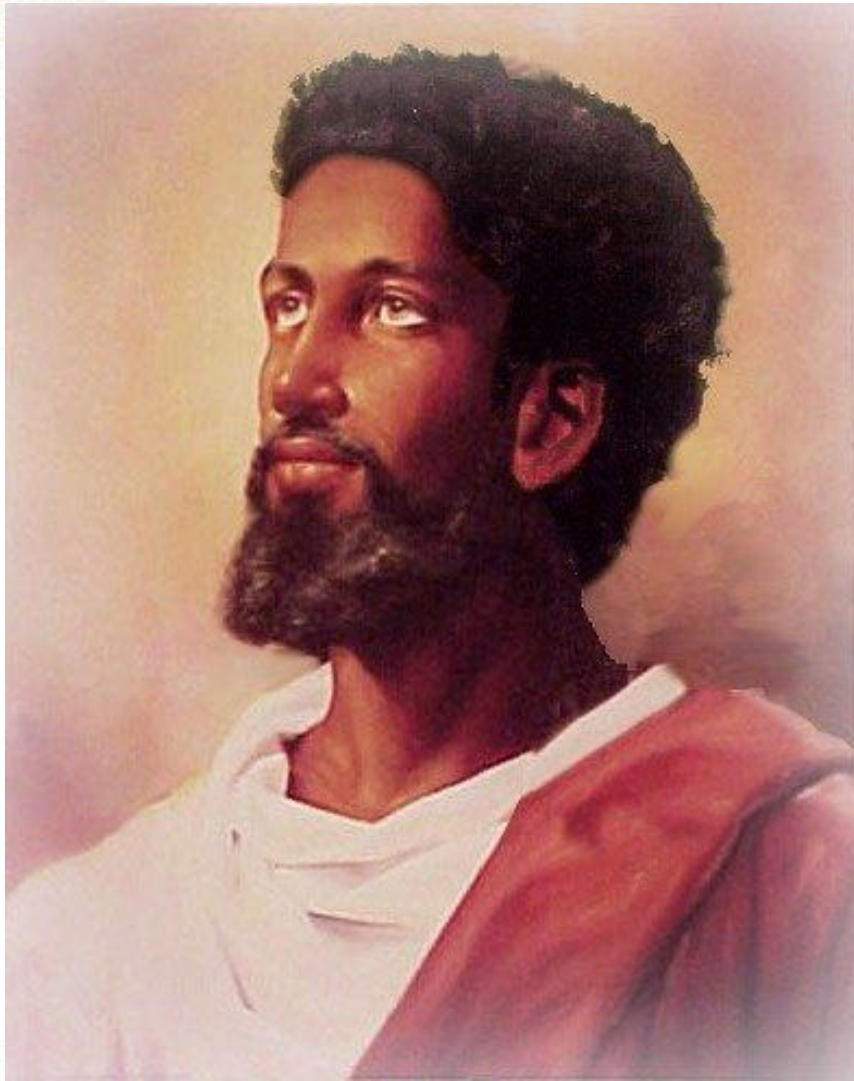
Cyclone

What is My Worldview?

- White (majority, non-specific)
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GOING TO CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY



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Practical Assessment:

1. You care about being mature, holy and blameless before the Lord.
2. You don't just assume that it is happening.
3. You are willing to be examined and challenged in all areas of your life.
4. You welcome assistance from those God has put into your life to help you develop.
5. You are seeing changes made in accordance with the clear teaching of Scripture.
6. You take seriously God's promise, plan, and purposes.

Other Aspects of Worldview?

- Individuality, democracy
- Affluence, consumerism
- Health, pleasure, ease
- Majority or minority culture
- Israel (pro, anti, replacement, huh?)
- Denomination, tradition
- Science and modernism (anti-postmodern)
- Superstition
- Bible use (verses, stories, books)
- Holy Spirit on my terms
- God/Family/Church
- “A loving God wouldn’t allow that!”

Tonight in House Churches

- What is my (our) worldview?
- Is my (our) worldview being transformed by the renewing of my (our) mind as a Christian?
- How do I (we) know?

Rely heavily on the teaching from Romans, especially regarding worldview change.