

BE NOT CONFORMED...TRANSFORM!
Romans 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION

- A. When Lord Nelson reported to the British his great victory in 1798 over the French fleet in the battle of the Nile, he said that “victory is not a name strong enough for such a scene.”
- B. Paul shared the same thought when he spoke of the victory he had won over the temptations of life through Jesus Christ, Rom. 8:37.
 - 1. “...*overwhelmingly conquer*” is to “***super conquer!***”
 - 2. Paul was always a battler:
 - a. Against Christians.
 - b. Against Jews.
 - c. Against the Gentiles.
 - d. With Roman officials.
 - e. Against Jewish leaders.
 - f. Against mobs.
 - g. Against false friends.
 - h. Against a thorn in the flesh.
 - i. Against death.
 - j. “***SUPER CONQUEROR!***”
- C. On one occasion when he had been delivered out of anxiety through the arrival of Titus, he called out – 2 Cor. 2:14-17.
 - 1. He was using the word used to describe the Roman triumphal march.
 - a. Emperor first in his chariot.
 - b. Walking behind came the ones taken prisoner.
 - c. Then the great victorious army.
 - d. Paul’s idea of the victory that God gives.
- D. But how did Paul come to this understanding?

I. PAUL – LIVING AGAINST THE NAME OF CHRIST.

- A. The kind of man he was:
 - 1. Not a stranger to Christ’s teaching.
 - 2. Not indifferent.
 - 3. Not an ordinary enemy.
 - 4. He was a special enemy: Phil. 3:5-6
 - a. Hebrew of Hebrews.
 - b. A graduate of the school of Gamaliel.
 - c. A devoted follower of the Jewish sect, the Pharisees.
 - d. He was revolted at the idea that the Galilean peasant that had been crucified between two thieves had been resurrected and was, indeed, the Son of God.
 - i. Paul’s description, Acts 26:10-11.
 - e. When Stephen was stoned, it was at the feet of Saul that they laid their garments, Acts 7:8.
 - f. Paul began ravaging the church, breathing murderous threats, Acts 8:1-4; 9:1.
- B. His Conversion.
 - 1. On road to Damascus. “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*”
 - a. Three days later, he is proclaiming the Christ as the Son of God.
 - 2. Christian’s amazement, Gal. 1:22-24.

- C. The Change in Paul.
 - 1. The bitterest foe became the greatest friend.
 - 2. The blasphemer became the preacher.
 - 3. The hand that wrote the charges against the Christians became the hand that wrote the epistles of God.
 - 4. He stopped living against Christ and began living willingly for Him, even to die, Acts 21:13.
- D. What Does It Mean to Live in the Name of Christ?
 - 1. How does it look?
 - 2. How is it shown on a daily basis?
 - 3. We now live with a new purpose and transformed mission.

II. PAUL – LIVING FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST.

- A. Characteristics of Paul.
 - 1. Bold, Acts 9:27.
 - 2. Unselfish, Acts 20:33-35.
 - 3. Zealous, Acts 22:3; Gal. 1:14.
 - 4. Conscientious, Acts 24:16.
 - 5. Patient, 2 Cor. 12:12.
 - 6. Fearless, Phil. 1:12-14.
- B. His Attitude:
 - 1. Toward Error:
 - a. Considered the one who believed error to be lost, 2 Cor. 4:3-4.
 - b. Rebuked the one mistaken, Gal. 2:5, 14 (Peter).
 - 2. Toward Sin:
 - a. Sin destroys. Rom. 6:23, “*But the wages of sin is death...*”
 - b. A Christian is freed from sin, Rom. 6:17-18.
 - c. 1 Cor. 6:9-11, sin no more, because you have been “*called to be saints.*”
 - 3. Toward the Gospel:
 - a. Rom. 1:16, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*”
 - b. Must be obeyed, 2 Thess. 1:7-9. (...when the Lord...)

CLOSING

- A. Living in One of Two States:
 - 1. Against the name of Christ.
 - 2. For the name of Christ.
 - 3. There is no middle ground.
 - a. Mt. 12:30, “*He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.*”
- B. When we do not live for Christ:
 - 1. We have chosen to reject His Word.
 - 2. And we make ourselves enemies of God, James 4:4.