

Message Eight

God's Organic Salvation (2)

Scriptures reading: Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; 2Cor. 3:18.

I. Six aspects of God's organic salvation revealed in the book of Romans.**C. Renewing—Rom. 12:2a.**

1. To be renewed is to have the element of God added into our being to replace and discharge the old element, the element of the old creation.
2. For all things to become new in the organic union with Christ (2Cor. 5:17) is for all things to become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.
 - a. God Himself is newness; therefore, to become new is actually to become God in His attributes of newness by having God wrought into us.
 - b. Our God is forever new, and He wants to infuse His ever-new essence into us to renew our entire being.
 - c. Thus, we are renewed by the addition of God into our being through the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity; as the element of God is added into us, this element renews us, especially in our mind.
3. Eph 4:23 says that we must "be renewed in the spirit of our mind."
 - a. Unless such a renewing takes place in our mind—the part of our soul that governs and directs our being—we cannot practice the Body life according to God's intention.
 - b. The renewing spirit in this verse is the mingled spirit, the life-imparting Spirit of God mingled with the regenerated human spirit to become one spirit (1Cor. 6:17).
4. This process of inward renewing is accompanied and facilitated by the environmental sufferings arranged by God in His sovereignty to consume our outer man so that the inner man may be renewed day by day—2Cor. 4:16.
5. The New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of the new creation—Rev. 21:2-3, 5; Gal. 6:15.
 - a. Anything created by God that does not have God in it as its life, nature, appearance, and expression is old, but anything that has God

within it as its life, nature, appearance, and expression is a new creation.

- b. The new creation—the New Jerusalem—is the new man—our being which has been regenerated by the Spirit, having God's life and nature wrought into it and having Christ as its constituent to become a new constitution—Col. 3:10-11.
- c. The book of Romans reveals that, by a crucial step in God's organic salvation, we need to be thoroughly and absolutely renewed so that we may become the new creation of God and for God; the issue of the renewing in Rom. 12:2 is the new creation, the New Jerusalem.

D. Transformation—12:2b; 2Cor. 3:18.

1. Rom. 12:2 also speaks of transformation through the renewing of the mind and 2Cor. 3:18 associates "beholding and reflecting of the Lord" with "transformation into the Lord's image from Glory to glory."
2. We may define transformation as the metabolic function of the life of God in us, by the addition of the divine element of Christ into our being, that we may express the image of Christ outwardly.
 - a. Transformation is a matter of inward spiritual metabolism issuing in as outward expression—the image of the gloried, resurrected Christ.
 - b. Transformation, therefore, involves an inward, intrinsic change in our soul, the organ that expresses the indwelling Christ in our spirit, causing us to bear the image of Christ.
 - c. Consummately, the image of Christ is the New Jerusalem, and to express the image of Christ is to express the New Jerusalem, thus, like sanctification and renewing, transformation results in our becoming the New Jerusalem—Rec. 3:12; 21:2, 9-11.
 - d. The precious materials with which the New Jerusalem is organically constructed—gold, pearl, and precious stones—indicate that the components of the New Jerusalem are not only regenerated, sanctified, and renewed but also transformed in life and in nature for God's expression—1Cor. 3:12.
3. The transformation in Rom. 12:2 is for the mass reproduction of Christ, the firstborn Son of God, the first God-man as the prototype of a God-man, that we, the many sons of God and many brothers of Christ, may be formed into His image and thereby become exactly like the firstborn Son of God.

- a. In His organic salvation, God is transforming us with the life element of the firstborn Son of God, the first God-man, who passed through death and entered into resurrection, until we are transformed metabolically into His image from one degree of glory to a higher degree of glory.
 - b. On the one hand, Christ has passed through the process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection to become the firstborn Son of God with a view to being the prototype for the reproduction of Himself in His believers.
 - c. On the other hand, God is bringing us through process of transformation that we may become the mass reproduction of the firstborn Son, the prototype, consummately to become the New Jerusalem, the eternal corporate expression of the Triune God.
4. The transformation in Rom. 12:2 results in the jasper city unveiled in Rev. 21:11—cf. Rev. 4:2-3.

Message Eight

Reference Scripture Verses:

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.

Eph. 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

2Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

I.

2Cor. 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

1Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

Rev. 21:2-3. **2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Rev. 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said, Write, for these words are faithful and true.

Gal. 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation *is what matters*.

Col. 3:10-11. **10** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev. 21:9-11. **9** And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. **10** And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **11** Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

1Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

Rev. 4:2-3. **2** Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne *there was* One sitting; **3** And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and *there was* a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

Additional Verses for Renewing and Transformation**Function of Mind:****1) To understand spiritual things; in mind we have wisdom and spiritual understanding**

Col. 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Rev. 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are the seven mountains where the woman sits

2) Our mind need to be opened to understand the Scriptures

Luke 24:44-45. 44 And He said to them, These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and Psalms concerning Me must be fulfilled.

45 Then He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures;

Cf) 2Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

3) Our mind is critical in understanding the will of God.

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.

Cf) 11:33-34. 33 O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways! **34** For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?

7:25 Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.

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.

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

8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Fallen condition of mind of the natural man

Rom. 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, *it is* no longer I *that* work it out but sin that dwells in me.

1Cor. 2:14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know *them* because they are discerned spiritually.

Jude 10 But these revile the things that they do not know; and the things that they understand naturally, like animals without reason, in these they are being corrupted.

Jude 19 These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit.

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which descends from above, but is earthly, soulish, demonic.

Eph. 2:2-3. **2** In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; **3** Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest;

Rom. 1:28 And even as they did not approve of holding God in *their* full knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mind, to do the things which are not fitting.

Eph. 4:17-18. **17** This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind, **18** Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Col. 1:21 And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works,

Col. 2:18 Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize, in self-chosen lowliness and the worship of the angels, dwelling on the things which he has seen, vainly puffed up by his mind set on the flesh,

Col. 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

1Tim. 6:5 Perpetual wranglings of men corrupted in mind and deprived of the truth, supposing godliness to be a *means of gain*.

2Tim. 3:8 And in the manner that Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these also oppose the truth; men corrupted in mind, disapproved concerning the faith.

Titus 1:15 All things are pure to the pure; yet to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

2Cor. 3:14 But their thoughts were hardened; for until the present day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant, it not being unveiled *to them* that *the veil* is being done away with in Christ.

2Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine *on them*.

Matt. 9:4 And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Why are you thinking evil things in your hearts?

2Cor. 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

Matt. 15:19 For out of the heart come evil reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnessings, blasphemies.

1Cor. 3:20 And again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are vain."

Rom. 1:21-23. **1:21** Because though they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God or thank *Him*, but *rather* became vain in their reasonings, and their heart, lacking understanding, was darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools **23** And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and reptiles.

Rom. 1:25 Who exchanged the ¹truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is ²blessed forever. Amen.

The need of repentance (Metanoia: change of mind)

Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

Isa. 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the evildoer, his thoughts; And let him return to Jehovah, and He will have compassion on him; And to our God, for He will pardon abundantly.

Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

Rev. 3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep *it* and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.

The need of Renewing of the mind

Eph. 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,

Eph. 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

... in Romans there are various stages of mind: a disapproved mind (1:28), the mind desiring to serve the law of God (7:25), the mind set either upon flesh or upon the spirit (8:6), and the transformed and renewed mind (12:2)...

... In Eph. 4 and Rom 12 we are strongly exhorted to seek the renewing of the mind and both deals with the practical realization of the Body life ...

Cf. Matt. 16:21-26. 21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, *God* be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You! **23** But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men. **24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. **26** For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

The characteristics of the Renewed Mind

1) Not trusting itself

2Cor. 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God,

2) Open to all the truth of God (threefold opening in Luke 24_opening in eyes (v.31), the opening of the Scriptures (v. 32), and the opening of the mind (v. 45)

3) The fortifications of reasonings are overthrown and the thoughts are captured.

2Cor. 10:4-5. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds, **5** As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

4) Filled with life and peace (Rom. 8:6)

Rom. 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another, not setting your mind on the high things but going along with the lowly; do not be wise in yourselves.

5) **Set on the things above (Col. 3:2)**

6) **Filled with the full knowledge of His will (Col. 1:9)**

Col. 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of *it*, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

As the result of the Renewing of Mind

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

1Cor. 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Rom. 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.

1Cor. 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give *my* opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.

1Cor. 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

1Cor. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.

Rom. 15:5 Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,

2Cor. 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice, be perfected, be comforted, think the same thing, be at peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Gal. 5:10 I am confident in the Lord concerning you that you will be of no other mind; but he who is troubling you shall bear the judgment, whoever he may be.

Phil. 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

Phil. 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

Phil. 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

1Cor. 14:15 What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray also with the mind; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing also with the mind.