

Loving Wednesday Afternoon

Romans 12:1-2

Dr. Charlie Self



A Personal Hello to our VCC Family

- In the past months we have:
 - Served another local congregation as an Interim Senior Pastor
 - Continued to serve Bethany University and The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
 - Created and presented several new artistic works
 - Consulted and spoken in dozens of contexts



A Personal Word :: Part 2

- As a family, we have seen:
 - Michael relocate and thrive in Brussels, Belgium
 - Charlotte graduate from college and get engaged
 - Christopher fulfill his ministry internship and complete his first year of college
 - Our acceptance of a new position as Associate Professor at AGTS
 - Kathy and Charlie wondering what day it is!

Sunday is Here!

- We worship in song and prayer:
enjoying God's *Presence*
- We hear God's Word preached and taught:
learning God's *Principles*
- We connect with friends new and old:
appreciating God's *People*



But Wednesday Afternoon Cometh

- Family schedules
- Work demands
- Church activities
- Bills to pay
- And Friday is not feeling near!



Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you brothers,
in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies**
as living sacrifices,
holy and pleasing to God –
this is your spiritual act of worship.



Romans 12:1-2

Do not conform

any longer to the pattern of this world,

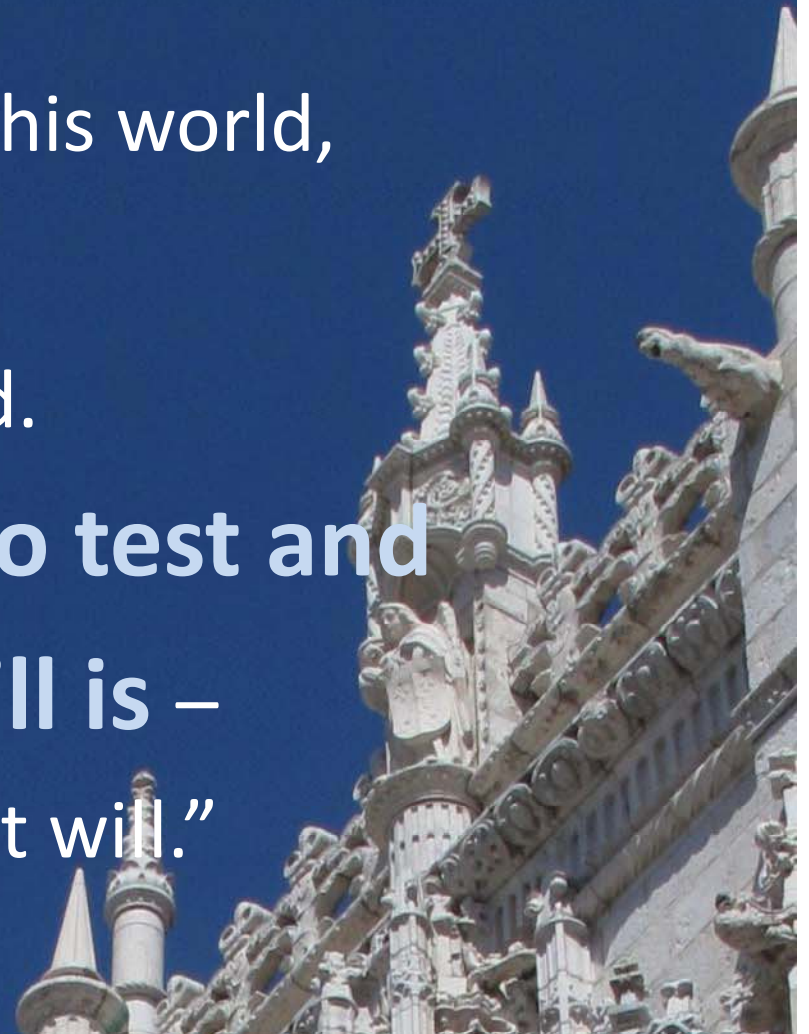
but **be transformed**

by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and

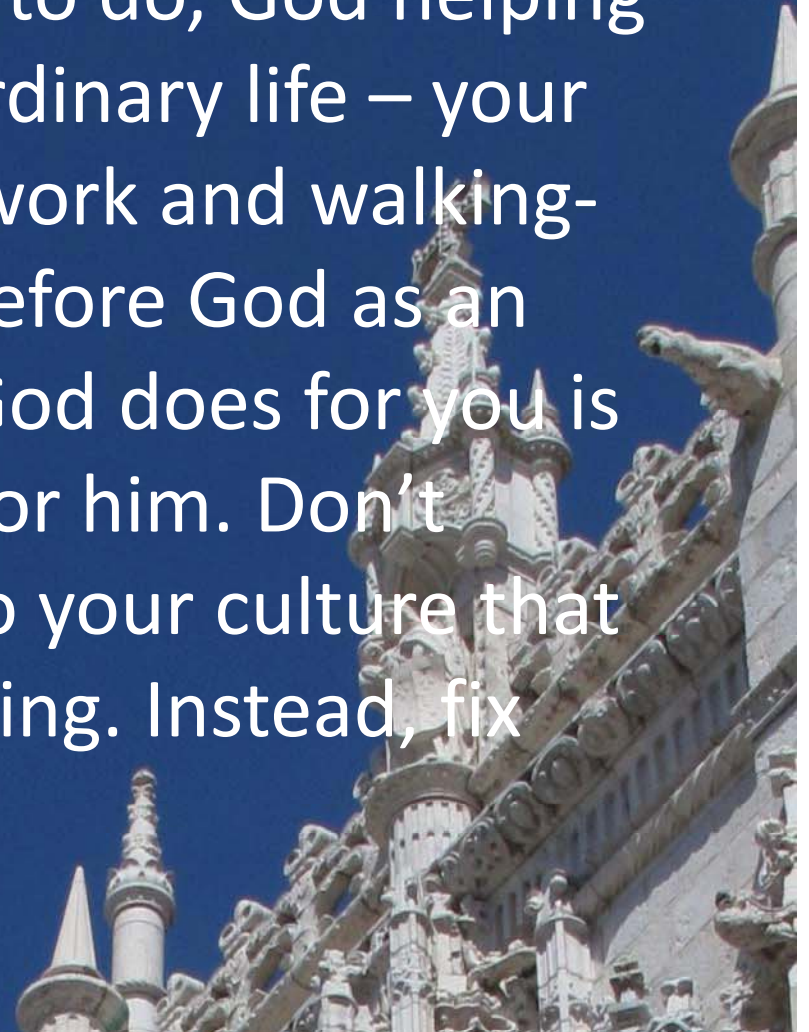
approve what God's will is –

his good, pleasing and perfect will.”



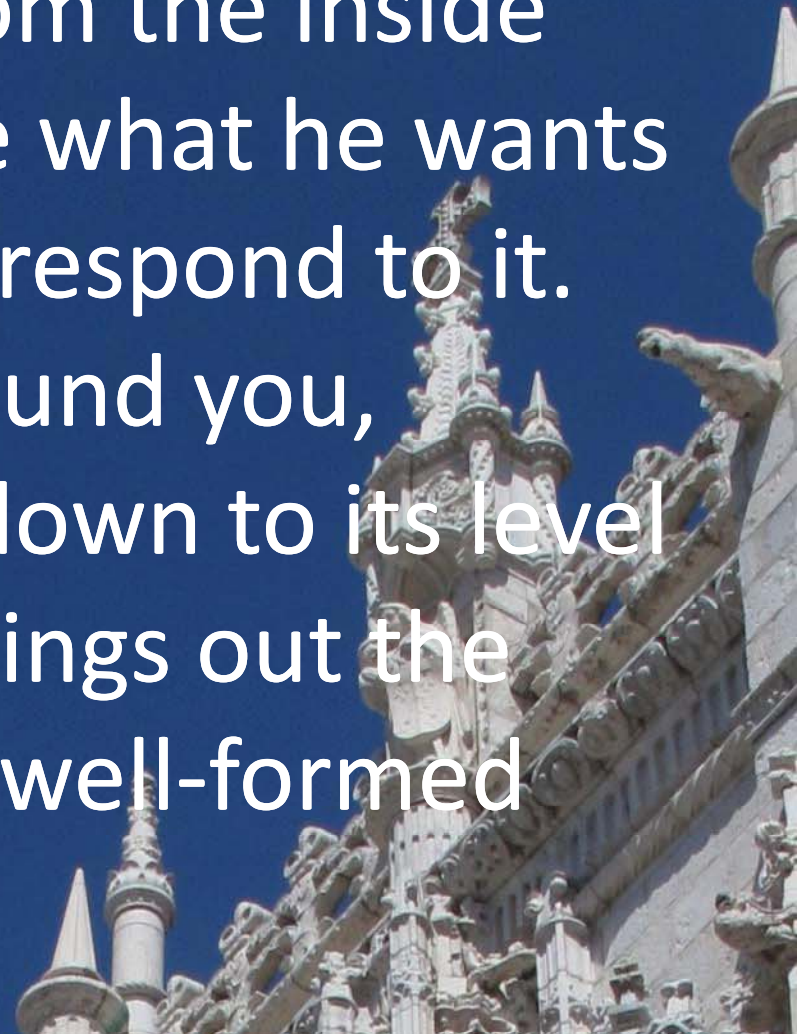
Romans 12:1-2 in *The Message*

- “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.



Romans 12:1-2 in *The Message*

- “You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings out the best in you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”



Romans 12:1-2: The most important “Therefore” in Scripture

- Romans 1-11: Indicatives of Grace:
a new **identity in Christ**
- Romans 12-15: Imperatives of Grace:
**new community and
responsibilities**



Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore” =

God is our Sovereign

“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices” =

Surrender



Romans 12:1-2

“Do not conform, but be transformed” =
Submission

*“Then you will be able to test and
approve what God’s will is” =*
Service



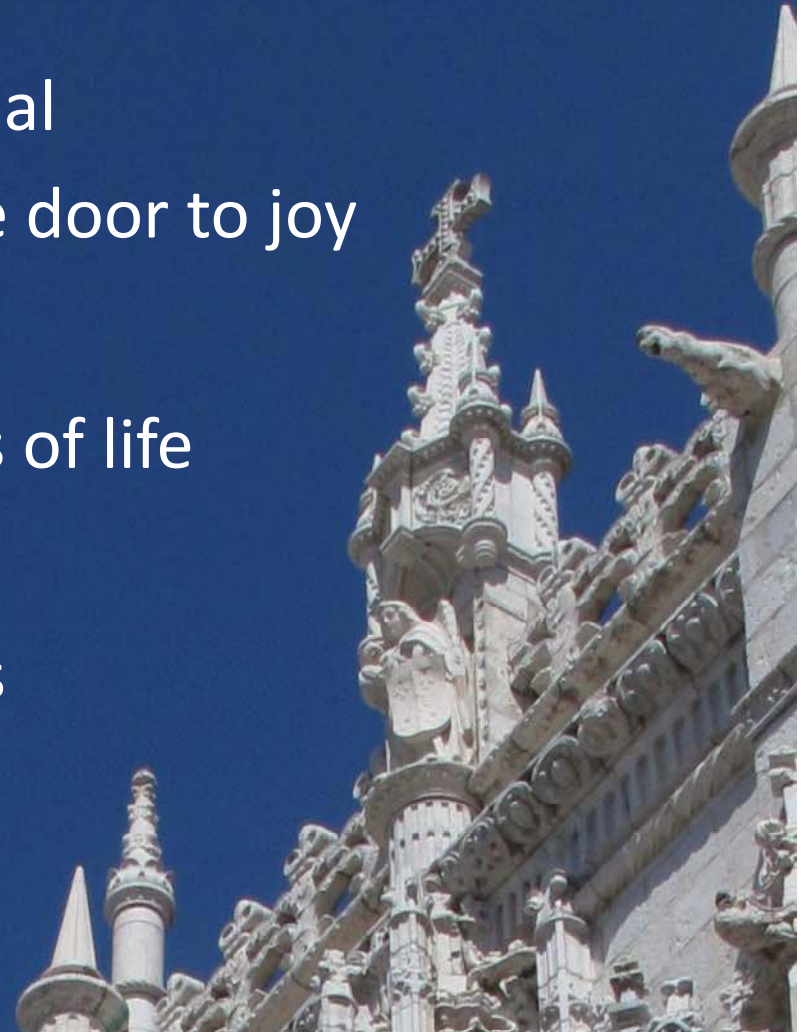
Loving Wednesday Afternoon

- In two verses, Paul ends the fragmentation of your lives
- Now, all of life is worship!
- There is an Audience of One and one set of principles for our lives



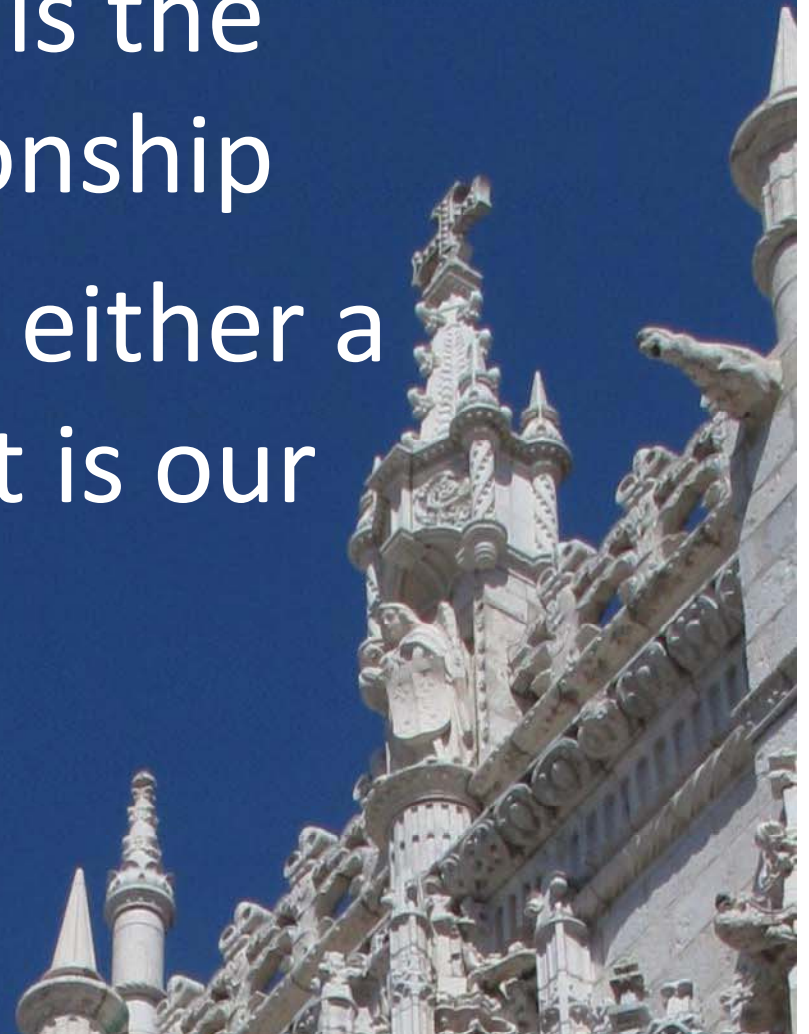
Loving Wednesday Afternoon

- The Presence of God
 - Omnipresence made personal
 - Praise and prayer unlock the door to joy
- The Principles of Scripture
 - The Bible touches ALL facets of life
- The People we encounter
 - Christ presents himself to us
 - We present Christ to others



For *This* Wednesday Afternoon

- The End of Religion is the Beginning of Relationship
- The same activity is either a duty or a delight – it is our choice



Authentic Spiritual Awakening occurs when God's People

- Pursue His presence
- Practice His principles
- Passionately serve people

