

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 20

## Overcoming by Transforming

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:37-39 & 12:1&2

**Therefore.** The 'therefore' commencing Romans 12:1 is a linking word to Chapter 8:39. Chapter 9 to 11 Paul digresses to deal with the theme of the sovereignty of God on which he touched in Romans 8:30, especially in relation to His elective purposes for and covenants with the Jewish people. The topic is too important, especially today when Israel amazingly is again a nation amongst neighbours which are in violent opposition. However, Romans 12:1&2 continues the thought of Romans 8:39, and when seen in this way takes on a new dimension. Today's study completes Paul's teaching on what God has done to bring all His sinning sons and daughters of Adam that we are, to Himself in love. Therefore let's go to it.

### Overcoming the Overbearing

*But in all these things* Romans 8:37. What things? The suffering of v35. Tribulation, distress, persecution, starvation, inadequate food or shelter, danger, or magistrates sword, those things that Christians have suffered since the days of Jesus Christ in consequence of believing in Him in an alien world. Over all these things we have the victory! Why? Because nothing external can separate us from God's love; no matter how severe! *More than Conquerors* means; 'to come off more than victorious, to gain a surpassing victory' -Wuest. Death, the worst that evil can do, but it opens the door to the presence of Christ; next, life with all its suffering and contingencies, third, the evil angels (of whom Satan is one), fourth, the reign of evil in this world (See Ephesians 2:2&6:12), fifth, things we deal with today, sixth that which is yet to be unfolded to us, seventh, the administrative authorities, eighth, astral predictions which occupied early contemporary beliefs, ninth, the philosophies of

men, or last mere created beings. Paul's list is in anti-climax mode; the opposition is finite and running out of puff. Get the message? All these things only serve to drive the committed Christian to Christ. Through them we learn more of His love because we lean more on His grace. Oppressed as we might be, they but prove the reality of Romans 8:28. Therefore Paul calls us to be committed to Christ.

### Undertaking for Overcoming

*Present Your Bodies* Romans 10:1

This is the object of the persecutor's attack: Jesus Taught:

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. Luke 12:4

His objective is your heart, but his target is your body. Therefore place it under the ownership and control of God. Hear Paul's impassioned plea, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,

which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1AV.

We are to lay our bodies there in life, even as Jesus lay His body there for us, even though that path led to the cross:

Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of me) to do your will, O God.' Hebrews 10:5-7 NASB

Did He not tell his disciples that if they would follow Him, that they must first take up their cross. The disciples understood the meaning of this parable, for they must have witnessed it often enough.

The word *present* is 'to place beside', as of the Lord Jesus, a living offering, was placed beside the doves to be slain in Luke 2:22. at the offering of His dedication at the temple.

The word *holy* means 'separate from' other use. The temple vessel was set apart for the service of God.

*Spiritual* in the Greek is *logikos*. It looks and sounds like 'logical', and it is. The AV renders it 'reasonable', Darby 'intelligent' and others 'spiritual', which unfortunately masks the meaning. How can we offer our bodies? It is *by*, or better, *through* His mercy. We do it through all that God has done for us.

### Conforming or Transforming?

This play on word sounds in v2 is in the English versions only, originally it is opposing ideas, outward show or intrinsic change. 'Don't camouflage

(yourself for) this age but be metamorphosed' This word expressing the change that takes place to the grub in the cocoon whereby it emerges as a beautiful butterfly comes from this Greek word *metamorphoo*, it is a new creature, a total change of being. This is the re-creative work of the Holy Spirit.

This change is also a process, it takes time and it takes application. It occurs when the believer applies intelligently the dedication he has made when he placed himself upon the altar v1. Paul called it, *the renewing of your mind*.

This is the mind that stands in opposition to the flesh, the *nous*, the 'law of the mind' we met in Romans 7:23, whereby we choose to be filled with and live in the Spirit.

It is not a once for all experience. It is a daily, and all through the day commitment to God. Renewing is a learning process which included finding new things, understanding them and then correcting our old ways and practising them.

### Proving means Testing

W.E. Vine expands this word as used in the New Testament as "to test, prove, with the expectation of approving". It is sometimes translated as 'to try', see eg 1 Peter 1:7. God's standard for the Christian is the holiness of His own nature. His Sons must be like Him Who is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We need not be less. We can not be more.

# Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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