

"Conformed or Transformed" Pt. II

Intro: God saved us, you and me, the _____, to be His chosen instruments, that we might _____ His _____.

A. Comprehending these _____ and foundational Doctrines of will:

- 1. Serve to _____ us from the influences of the world by making us wise to the truth and the devises of the world;
- 2. Bring understanding as to just how _____ the influences of the world are upon the church;
- 3. Cause us to take _____ the charge that we are the pillar and support of the truth and,
- 4. In knowing the truth, cause us to live more _____ God-glorifying lives!

Romans 12:2

I. The church is not to be _____ to the world, but to be by the renewing of the _____.

A. The church is in danger of conforming to the world by giving herself over to _____ (worldly thinking).

II. From secularism flows _____.

A. Webster defines humanism as: 3: a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on _____ interests or values; a philosophy that asserts the dignity and _____ of man and his capacity for _____-realization through reason and that often _____ the supernatural."

1. Beloved, the Bible says, Isa 55:8-9, 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are _____ than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

B. It is with sorrow that humanism, that attitude of life that _____ the worth of _____, while _____ the infinite worth of _____ has permeated many congregations. Many are man-centered rather than properly God-centered.

C. The secular _____ view is base and _____: "What is a man going to eat? How will he be made happy?" But the eternal view realizes that a man's _____ is to realize that he has sinned before the Holy God, and that if he does not repent of his sin, believing upon the Lord Jesus _____, that he will face the wrath of God.

D. It is not man's inherent goodness, but man's utter sinfulness that demonstrates how _____ is.

1. Church, Christ died not because we were so valuable, but as a demonstration of how high, and deep, and wide, and far reaching the love of God is! It is _____ total _____ that demonstrates the magnanimous love of God's sacrifice. God's glory is demonstrated in the fact that though we were dead in our trespasses and sin, at

enmity with God, He gave His Son to redeem us. This gospel is not about the goodness of men, but the goodness, the holiness, the _____ of God!

E. The _____ congregation also thinks that it is all about what they are doing for God. Forgetting the eternal work of the Spirit, their emphasis is on the temporal _____ and accomplishments of _____.

1. The way of humanism in the church is to point around and say, "Look what _____ are doing. Look what _____ have done." But those who have been transformed by the renewing of the mind point to God and say, "What a _____ He is! Look at this _____! There is no one like Him!"

F. The _____ congregation is humanistic being man-centered, but the church that has been transformed by the renewing of the mind is God-centered. How can the church overcome humanism? Church, like Nebuchadnezzar, it is only when our eyes are _____ to _____ that our reason returns!

III. From secularism flows _____.

A. According to Webster relativism is: 1b: a view that ethical _____ on the individuals and groups holding them." Relativism is the belief that truth is not absolute, but it depends upon what people think and _____.

1. But in contrast, Jesus said to the Father, " _____!" (Jo. 17:17).

B. In a world of relativism truth is _____, being individual instead of universal and the individual is then left to decide what is right _____.

C. Relativism concerns itself with _____ rather than absolutes.

D. Because the church is surrounded by a world that thinks in relative terms, and because the church is _____ in the _____ of what she is to believe as a Christian; the church is conforming to the world giving herself to relativism.

1. The congregation that is given over to relativism is _____ to preach and proclaim the gospel taking a strong stand on absolute truths, because she is _____ and finds that when she asserts the absolute truth that it offends the world.

2. The congregation that is given to relativism does not believe that the _____ is sufficient, nor _____ in its authority.

E. Contrary to worldly relativistic thinking, the truth is that the Word of God is more than sufficient, relevant, and fully _____ for it is of God and of absolute _____! The true church does not cower away from the scriptures, but finds herself being the pillar and support of the truth.

Closing: I ask you church, to think about these issues with the _____ of _____!

Consider how the church has been conforming to the world. How we _____ to know the _____! May we upon realizing our own sinfulness in conforming to the world through secularism, humanism, and relativism repent and turn from such sinful thinking and be the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Oh Lord, may we raise our eyes to heaven that our _____ will _____!