

Dear friends,

February, 2023

Recently, Debi mentioned, that in the past, I had said how important Romans 11:36 has been in my spiritual growth. That gave me the desire to review the power this and connected verses have in my walk with Him.

Let me jump ahead a bit to Romans 12:1- Many Christian's can quote this verse.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

For a long time I didn't connect the word 'therefore' in chapter 12 with chapter 11 verse 36 but that refers us back to what he just wrote because there were no chapters or verses in his letter.

In order to successfully surrender to God we have to grasp the importance of His authority over everything! Please let me use the Amplified Bible as a commentary of this verse and the power God truly has.

Rom 11:36 For from Him [all things originate] and through Him [all things live and exist] and to Him are all things [directed]. To Him be glory and honor forever! Amen.

We are living in difficult times and there is the temptation to be anxious and/or angry as we try to deal with the conflict around us. Some of us tend to avoid the news and all the bad things going on in the world and others of us get absorbed in all the negative news. Neither is what God wants His children to focus on in dark times. As we grasp the power of God mentioned in 11:36 we can then successfully apply Romans 12:2 **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

This verse encourages us to not be overwhelmed by this world's wars, politics, natural disasters, or the burglary or car theft that just happened locally but, being transformed by remembering who is all powerful in this world and this will give us a renewed mind and help us to be a light in all this darkness. Matthew 5:16...**let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

Debi and I have been struggling with this coughing sickness that is spreading around and I have missed some time at Alpha but I'm back and trying to stay healthy. With all the stress in our country we are seeing more people struggling with anxiety and that creates family complications so I ask for your prayers that we may have wisdom and patience helping families struggling with work loss, sickness, and struggles with children issues.

May you keep your heart and mind focused on the God of Romans 11:36. Thank you for your prayers and gifts to Alpha!

Richard

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