

"Start Seeing It Differently"

August 17, 2025

Part 3: STOP! Read That Verse Again; If It's Certain...

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8; *New Living Translation (NLT)*

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 11-12; 1 Peter 4:10;

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:22-24

Context and Background: In the previous two lessons, we have emphasized the importance of pausing and reading the text with fresh eyes and precision, which allows us to see things differently. This only happens when we submit to the Holy Spirit, who leads and guides us to a clearer understanding of the "**what, why, and how**" found in the historical context and content of God's Word.

Romans 12 provides us with a blueprint for Christian living. It calls for transformation, a renewal of the mind that changes the way we live. It emphasizes the importance of spiritual gifts and the role each of us plays in the body of Christ. Above all, it advocates for genuine love, a love that honors even in the face of persecution, that shows empathy for others, and seeks peace and unity. It serves as a powerful reminder to conquer evil with good, reaffirming that, ultimately, love prevails overall.¹

Paul uses the analogy of a body with many members to illustrate the unity and diversity of the Christian community, where God uniquely gifts each member. He emphasizes the importance of humility, urging believers to evaluate themselves with sober judgment based on the faith God has given them.

Beloved, when we realize that our gifts are a result of God's grace, we will be eager to serve with love, building up the body of Christ for the glory of God.

Application: Words of Hope

Thank you, God, for one hundred and seventy-one years of faithful service in the name of **Sandy Run Missionary Baptist Church**.

"We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, Trusting in His holy Word, He's never failed us yet. Oh, oh, oh, can't turn a-round, We've come this far by faith."

~~Albert Goodson~~

¹ <https://biblehub.com/study/chapters/romans/12.htm>

Content and Key Points: Romans 12:1-8 (NLT)

A Progressive Acceptance

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God because of all He has done** for you. **Let** them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind **He will find acceptable**. This is **truly** the way to worship Him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let** God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will learn to know** God's will for you, which is **good** and **pleasing** and perfect.

A Purposeful Outcome

³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, **I give each of you this warning**: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in **your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us**. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and **each part has a special function**, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are **many parts of one body**, and we all belong to each other.

A Personal Story of Certainty

⁶ **In His grace**, God has **given us different gifts for doing certain things well**. So **if** God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ **If** your gift is serving others, serve them well. **If** you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ **If** your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. **If** it is giving, give generously. **If** God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And **if** you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

