

INFORMATION – APPLICATION – TRANSFORMATION

PART TWO

Romans 12:1, 2 – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- **Transformed** – to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct. [Stress on inward rather than outward]
- **Note**: we tend to stress the outward.

INFORMATION

Information [Dictionary] – knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance; knowledge gained through study, communication, research, etc.; data.

Nuggets from last week:

- We need information just like a fire needs fuel.
- The Word is the information we need.
- The Word found brings life & health.
- There are serious hindrances to receiving information.
 - Hard headed way of thinking.
 - Blockages such as pride, poor self image, or tradition.
 - Attention robbers such as anxiety, attraction to things or lust for things forbidden.
- We must continue hearing and receiving information!
 - Why? To be persuaded.
 - Illustration: a car reported to be the best. You'd need to keep hearing about it – great gas mileage, an engine that never wears out, etc.
- Accumulating information without applying it can lead to an inflated ego.
- Information isn't enough by itself.

APPLICATION

Application [Dictionary] – The act of applying. [Apply – to put into action] Persistent attention.

Why don't we apply what we know?

- Thinking the people around us are controlling us.
- Didn't really get the information. [Illustration: wife calls with a list of things to pick up.]
- Puffed up. ["I know!"]
- Don't follow instructions. [Visible V8]
- It's harder than we thought it would be. ["I believed all night..."]

James 1:21-25 [Phillip's] – *Have done, then, with impurity and every other evil which touches the lives of others, and humbly accept the message that God has sown in your hearts, and which can save your souls. Don't I beg you, only hear the message, but put it into practice; otherwise you are merely deluding yourselves. The man who simply hears and does nothing about it is like a man catching the reflection of his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, it is true, but he goes on with whatever he was doing without the slightest recollection of what sort of person he saw in the mirror. But the man who looks into the perfect mirror of God's law, the law of liberty (or freedom), and makes a habit of so doing, is not the man who sees and forgets. He puts that law into practice and he wins true happiness.*

- **Application**: put the law of liberty (freedom) into practice.
- **How?** Remind yourself of who you (really) are.

Luke 6:46-49 – *But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸"He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹"But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

- **Three steps**: (1) Come to Jesus. (2) Hear what He has to say. (3) Do it!
- **"hears"** – to attend to, consider what is or has been said; to perceive the sense of what is said; to get by hearing, learn; to find out; to give ear to a teaching or a teacher.
- **Note**: attend to the hearing until you've got it; then put that to use.

Fred Price Illustration: starving man believes the food will save him.

Ephesians 4:17-19 – *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

- **"futility"** – what is devoid of truth and appropriateness.
- **"understanding darkened"** – capability of understanding becoming darkened; not as able to see and perceive clearly.
- **"alienated from the life of God"** – even though the life of God is inside, it does this person no good.
- **"ignorance"** – lack of knowledge, esp. of divine things; moral blindness.
- **"blindness"** – POROSIS; hardening, callousness. Metaphorically, it denotes a dulled spiritual perceptivity, spiritual blindness, and hardness.
- **"past feeling"** – to become callous, insensible to pain, apathetic.

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- “**lewdness**” – total debauchery, unashamed indecency, unbridled lust, unrestrained depravity. The person with this characteristic has an insolent defiance of public opinion, sinning in broad daylight with arrogance and contempt.
- “**uncleanness**” – in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, shamelessly immoral living.
- “**greediness**” – greedy desire to have more; can’t get enough!

Ephesians 4:20-24 [NASB] – *But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

- **Note:** The beginning of applying information is to strip away the old.
- **Illustration:** **CHANGING THE BABY’S DIAPER.**
 - **Wrong Way:** the baby’s fussing because he’s uncomfortable; the odor is making everyone else uncomfortable; so...sprinkle on a little powder and put on a clean diaper.
 - **Right Way:** remove the old diaper, clean up the baby, and then put on a clean one. Now the baby’s comfortable (and so is everyone else!).
 - **The Point:** merely trying to add to your old way of thinking won’t change you for the better. You must first remove the old programmed thoughts.

Matthew 12:35 – “*A good man out of the good **treasure** of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil **treasure** brings forth evil things.*”

- **What decides what you bring forth?** – heredity, good (bad) luck, environment – no! It’s what is already in you.
 - Your life is a manifestation of what is in you.
 - Your marriage is a manifestation of what is in you concerning marriage.
 - Your children are a manifestation of what is in you concerning children.
 - Your finances are a manifestation of what is in you concerning finances.
 - Your business or job is a manifestation of what is in you concerning work.
- **Begin working** on the “**treasure**” that is in you – change that “**treasure**” and you’ll change what you bring forth.
- **Examples:**
 - A lottery winner with a poverty mentality is soon broke again.
 - Moving someone from the slums to a new apartment.