

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Christian Living



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.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is

that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

—Romans 12:1-2, 20-21.

This inimitable twelfth chapter of Paul's *Epistle to the Romans* not only provides the orthodox Christian with understandable precepts for daily living, but it also furnishes profound occult truths for those who have the key.

To the majority of the people of that early time the ideals of kindness, tolerance, compassion, service, and even of physical cleanliness, were largely unknown. It was a far cry indeed from the generally accepted moral standards of the day to the high ideals taught by Christ Jesus and His apostles. Therefore, converts to the new faith were admonished repeatedly concerning the practice of the fundamentals of Christianity so that they might become habituated to the new teachings.

However, there were for the more advanced deeper truths than appeared on the surface. Occult philosophy reveals as a basic precept of the Christian Teachings the sanctity of the creative force and the necessity of transmuting this force into mental and spiritual channels. Hence, when Paul admonished the Roman converts to present their

"bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," he meant a body not merely physically clean and constantly performing service for others, but a "temple" in which the fire of the indwelling Spirit was being lifted into higher channels of creation than the physical. Only such a body is "acceptable unto God."

Here, too, does the aspirant find the secret of being "transformed by the renewing of your mind." Thought and speech are both creative, having been made possible by the diverting of one half of the creative force upward to build a brain and larynx. Thus the power of the mind depends upon the degree to which the creative force has been conserved and transmuted. This involves spiritualization of all the vehicles, which enables us to "be not conformed to this world," but to focus the consciousness on a higher plane and thus discern "what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." As Max Heindel points out:

"When man has spiritualized his being under the influence of the scientific and artistic religion of a future day he will have learned self-control and have become unselfishly helpful to his fellow beings; he will then be a safe guardian of the *thought power* whereby he will be able to form accurate *ideas* which will be immediately fit to crystallize into useful *things*."

The last line of this twelfth chapter of Romans also embodies an inexorable spiritual law, which humanity must at some future time learn to put into actual practice. Instead of allowing our lives to be dominated by destructive thoughts and actions we must learn to "do good greedily" so that the "evil" will automatically disappear, having been replaced by the "good."