



Romans 12:2

And 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

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We have taught on renewing the mind, but today we are going to approach the topic from a different perspective. We are going to use the parable of a frame today.

We're going to take a fresh look at this important mandate of renewing the mind. We know that the new birth experience or becoming a believer in Christ is a great miracle that happens in the heart. The challenge has always been to reflect in our daily life the same Christ that abides in our hearts.

Psalms 119:49

Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.

Hope is expectation

What do you expect?

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Hope: to wait, expect
Wait on what? Expect what?

We do not look at something or someone and then "apply" a frame to it.

Rather, people **constantly project** into the world around them frames that **allow them to make sense of it.**

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When we speak of framing, we all have a point of view:
Might think about an actual picture frame
If you're into photography you know the importance of the frame to compose your image
You might think of framing as a position or point of view
You might think of "frame of mind" which is someone's disposition

Framing can manifest in thought or communication. Frames in thought consist of the mental representations, interpretations, and simplifications of reality.

People build mental "filters." They use these filters to make sense of their world. The choices they then make are influenced by their creation of a frame.

I read Barack Obama's book, "A Promised Land." One of the things that stood out to me was that as educated, accomplished, decent, and competent, as this man was, many people still put him in the frame of a black person who can be disrespected like everyone else

"In times of change **learners** inherit the earth; while the **learned** find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

- Eric Hoffer

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Historically, learners have possessed certain attributes. They anticipate rather than react to change. They become essential facilitators within their altered environment.

Like Blockbuster vs. Netflix

The Solution is Dissolution

Dissolution: "The act or process of dissolving"

Rather than wrestle with problems, first determine if the problem **IS** the problem.

Some "problems" need to be dissolved or deconstructed.

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There is no solution in staring at a problem. There is no hope in the problem. I did not say you were hopeless. I am saying there is no hope in the problem itself.

Hope is expectation, so hope lies beyond the problem. We don't wait on problems, we wait on solutions to problems.

**Dissolving a problem is not denying it.
It is getting at the core problem.**

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Denial is dangerous. A year ago, we had national leaders who denied the existence and pervasive nature of coronavirus. There is this myth of invulnerability regarding our nation and a false feeling by too many people. We were told that this all would disappear and that the heat of spring and summer would make it go away.

The actual problem was not only COVID but the anti-science mindsets of many people. We saw the marginalization and silencing of scientists.

Until false notions were dissolved, you could not move towards dealing with the real virus

The people who did understand went to work on the problem. One thing a real scientist or expert knows, is that it is pointless to try to explain a process to people who only believe in miracles.

A year ago, we began to call for prayer for those who have the knowledge and expertise to develop treatments and a vaccine. They came up with not only one vaccine, but three that have been approved in our country.

Now the fear is: I don't want to take it because I don't know what is in it. Ok, now people have let their ignorance become the problem to dissolve.

Psalm 119:49, Remember the word to Your servant,
Upon which You have caused me to hope.

Hope is expectation, so hope **lives beyond the problem**.

We don't wait on problems, **we wait on solutions** to problems. **We look forward.**

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David encountered many problems. Some of his own making. He didn't ask for a new promise, but asked for an old word to be fulfilled.

Re-frame your problems as a gift or an opportunity.

The gift of a problem **is not focusing** on the problem.

The gift of a problem is **activating your ability to flourish and thrive**. Remember, part of your creation is the be "fruitful and multiply."

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Re-frame about problems as a gift or an opportunity.

The gift of a problem is not focusing on the problem. Surviving is not the only objective.

The gift of a problem is activating your ability to flourish and thrive. Remember, part of your creation is the be "fruitful and multiply."

What do you look like when you are flourishing and thriving?

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5 Now hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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Hope does not disappoint. We are talking about hope developed from God's word, from process, from having the correct frame.

CASE STUDY #1:

What is the problem?

"My lawn looks bad."

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My lawn looked bad, so I bought chemicals. I got weed and feed, I got pre-emergent to stop crabgrass from growing, I got crabgrass killer when the pre-emergent did not work, I put grass seed in.

I hired a lawn care service who gave me a detailed report about my lawn and what they did to it. Then I got a report that said we had a fungus growing in the lawn require a special anti-fungal treatment. When I asked the guy where the fungus came from, he said most likely came from the lawnmower of the person mowing our lawn.

That's when I realized we had a problem, because the person who mowed our lawn also mowed the lawn of our neighbor right across the street from us.

She didn't have fungus, so I concluded they may have given us fungus to be able to charge us for fungus treatment.

Wasn't example of wrestling with the wrong problem. A problem that needed to be dissolved.

My real problem was twofold: 1) My lawn was Young "fixing" because it had four kinds of grass growing and it in at least five kinds of weeds, one of which no weed killer could kill without killing everything.

The biggest problem was my own ignorance. I kept thinking about how good the lawn looked at my previous house that I maintained. But the thing was, that house had a good lawn to begin with.

In August 2020, I realized the solution was dissolution. So I called an expert who knew an expert about lawns.

This guy came out and killed the whole front lawn. He killed all four types of grasses and all the weeds.

After he killed everything, they came back with this device called a slice seeder and sowed very high-quality grass seed specifically designed for our climate and the direct sunlight level for our lawn.

It wasn't cheap, but it cost about the same as 2-3 years of useless so-called lawn care service.



CASE STUDY #1:

Real Problem Dissolved:

- 1) Getting played by the "lawn care" service
- 2) My ignorance about "lost cause" lawns

CASE STUDY #2:

What is the problem?

"I need more money."

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People do strange things to try to get more money. People are lined up waiting to get your money while promising to help you get more money.

There used to be a preacher on TV telling people to sow a \$1000 seed and God would bless them with a hundred fold blessing. $\$1000 \times 100$ is \$100,000

People did not understand that regardless of what happened to them after they gave \$1000, he would have their \$1000.

There is something called "magical thinking." It is actually a psychological disorder: It is the belief that one's own thoughts, wishes, or desires can influence the external world.

If you ever feel led to give \$1000, give it to your church, because you know what your church is doing for you. Be persuaded by somebody's "crocodile tears" or appeals to magical thinking. Be persuaded by people who put in the work to bless you and don't try to play you. This is the seed that God will bless.

Magical thinking is not to be confused with the lifestyle of faith for Followers of Christ. We have faith with corresponding actions that God honors. We are tithes and givers because we love God and have a lifestyle of obedience to God.

CASE STUDY #2:

Real Problem Dissolved:

- 1) Too much spending
- 2) Wasting money
- 2) Paying interest on consumer debt

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CASE STUDY #3:

What is the problem?

"Not successful helping people."

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I have a vivid memory of someone I knew a long time ago who is no longer with us. I remember because his situation was one that I was unsuccessful in helping him. Tried everything from prayer, deliverance from demonic activity, Bible study, reading books, making daily confessions, and more.

Of course, we all know that people have to want to change. I believe this guy wanted to change, because he was trying. Much later I realized the "trying" was the problem.

How many of you who are married, tried to get married?

How many of your tried to withdraw money from your bank account?

How many of you tried to read a book?

Do you see where I am going?

"Trying" is your enemy because it prevents a full commitment without compromise. Thing that is very important to you, you get it done.

CASE STUDY #3:

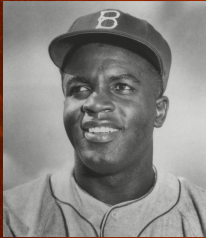
Real Problem Dissolved:

1) Can't help people who won't change their frame and attitude about God

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Robinson, 1919 - 1972



Born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919 to a family of sharecroppers. His mother, Mallie Robinson, single-handedly raised Jackie and her four other children. They were the only black family on their block.

Became first baseball player to break Major League Baseball's color barrier that segregated the sport for more than 50 years.

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Growing up in a large, single-parent family, Jackie excelled early at all sports and learned to make his own way in life. At UCLA, Jackie became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. In 1941, he was named to the All-American football team. Due to financial difficulties, he was forced to leave college and eventually decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. After two years in the army, he had progressed to second lieutenant. Jackie's army career was cut short when he was court-martialed in relation to his objections with incidents of racial discrimination. In the end, Jackie left the Army with an honorable discharge.

In 1945, Jackie played one season in the Negro Baseball League, traveling all over the Midwest with the Kansas City Monarchs. But greater challenges and achievements were in store for him. In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey approached Jackie about joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Major Leagues had not had an African-American player since 1889, when baseball became segregated. When Jackie first donned a Brooklyn Dodger uniform, he pioneered the integration of professional athletics in America. By breaking the color barrier in baseball, the nation's preeminent sport, he courageously challenged the deeply rooted custom of racial segregation in both the North and the South.

At the end of Robinson's rookie season with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he had become National League Rookie of the Year with 12 homers, a league-leading 29 steals, and a .297 average. In 1949, he was selected as the NL's Most Valuable player of the Year and also won the batting title with a .342 average that same year. As a result of his great success, Jackie was eventually inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Proverbs 3:5, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

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YOUR CASE STUDY:

What is your problem?

What is the core problem?

What do you need to dissolve to get at the core problem?

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