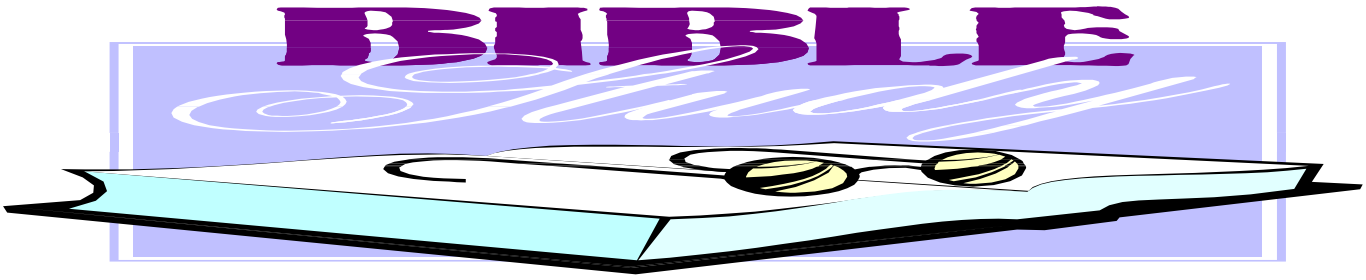

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Topic
"Awakened to God's Will"

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BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Facilitator

"Awakened to God's Will"

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:1-21

Key Verses: Romans 12:1, 2

PROPOSITION: Our personal consecration to God is the secret of a life that is brought progressively into conformity with the will of God.

I. We are awakened to God's will as we develop Christian character. (12:1, 2)

A. Christian Character-building begins with our Consecration (1)

1. God's grace is the motive for our consecration.
2. Total surrender is the method of our consecration.
   a. We surrender ourselves as a living sacrifice.
   b. We surrender ourselves as a holy sacrifice.
   c. We surrender ourselves as an acceptable sacrifice.

B. Christian Character-building continues with our Transformation (2)

1. Our transformation means not conforming to the world's behavior and customs.
2. Our transformation means becoming a new person in Christ.
3. Our transformation means changing the way we think.
4. Our transformation means discerning the will of God.
   a. We discern and demonstrate what is good.
   b. We discern and demonstrate what is acceptable or pleasing to God.
   c. We discern and demonstrate what the perfect will of God is.

II. We are awakened to God's will as we maintain an accurate self-estimate. (12:3)

A. We do not think too highly of ourselves.
B. We do not think too lowly of ourselves.
C. We base our self-worth on the measure of faith that we have received.

III. We are awakened to God's will as we serve the Lord with all our heart. (12:4-8, 11-13)

A. We serve the Lord by faithfully using our spiritual gifts. (4-8)

1. We function in the Body of Christ according to our spiritual gifts.
2. We depend upon all members of the Body to function by using their spiritual gifts.
   a. Those with the gift of prophesy must speak out as God gives them faith. (6)
   b. Those with the gift of serving others must serve them well. (7)
   c. Those with the gift of teaching must do a good job of teaching. (7)
   d. Those with the gift of encouraging others must do it faithfully. (8)
   e. Those with the gift of giving must share what they have generously. (8)
   f. Those with the gift of leadership must lead with diligence. (8)
   g. Those with the gift of showing mercy to others must do it cheerfully. (8)

B. We serve the Lord by gladly anticipating all that He has for us. (12)
C. We serve the Lord by patiently enduring trials and tribulations. (12)

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D. We serve the Lord by fervently praying as the Spirit leads us. (12)

E. We serve the Lord by generously investing in the Kingdom. (13)

1. We are investing in the kingdom of God when we give our tithes and offerings.
2. We are investing in the kingdom of God when we meet the needs of God's people.
3. We are investing in the kingdom of God when we respond to the needs of the poor.

IV. We are awakened to God's will as we demonstrate Christ-like love. (12:9, 10, 13-21)

A. We are genuine in our love for others. (9)

1. It enables us to abhor what is evil and hate what is wrong.
2. It enables us to stand for what is right and good.

B. We are genuine in our affection for others. (10, 13)

1. It enables us to take delight in honoring others.
2. It enables us to respond to the needs of God's people.
3. It enables us to show hospitality to others.

C. We live in harmony with others. (15-16)

1. It enables us to be happy with those who are happy.
2. It enables us to share the sorrow of those who are mourning.
3. It enables us to enjoy the company of ordinary people.
4. It enables us to respect the ideas and opinions of others.

D. We live at peace with people who are hard to love. (14, 17-21)

1. It enables us to pray for God to bless those who curse us.
2. It enables us to do things in such a way that everyone can see that we are honorable.
3. It enables us to trust God to bring about justice and to make things right.
   a. We neither have to pay back evil, nor get revenge.
   b. God promises to repay those who deserve it.
4. It enables us to overcome evil with good.
   a. Our kindness enables us to feed our enemies when they are hungry.
   b. Our kindness enables us to give them drink when they are thirsty.
   c. Our kindness will make them ashamed of what they have done to us.

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