

SIX STUDIES IN TRANSFORMATION

OUTLINE

1. The transformation of the sinner in the new birth
2. The transformation of the mind by the Holy Spirit
3. The transformation of the life:
 - (a) Away from the world
 - (b) Towards Christ
4. The transformation of the world
 - (a) The growth of the Kingdom
 - (b) The discipling of the nations
5. The transformation of the body in the resurrection
6. The transformation of history in times of revival

STUDY 1

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SINNER IN THE NEW BIRTH

(a) By Christ's love and friendship (1 Jn. 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9, 14; Rom 5:5-8)

[See THE TRANSFORMING FRIENDSHIP – Dr. Leslie Weatherhead]

(b) By the Holy Spirit:

(1) In regeneration (Jn. 3:3, 5-7)

(2) In conviction and conversion (Jn. 16:8-11)

(3) In comfort (Jn. 14:25-25-26; 15:26; 16:5-7, 13-15)

(c) By Christian hope (Eph. 1:18-19; Col 1:23,27; 1 Thess. 5:8; 1 Pet 1:3)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. How can it be rightly said that a relationship with Christ is a 'transforming friendship'?
2. Why does God's love produce a transformation in the sinners' life?
3. What evidence should we look for in the Christian's life of a spiritual transformation?

STUDY 2

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE MIND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 12:1-2

- (a) A living sacrifice.

The world teaches the body to live for pleasure = self
Christ teaches us to use our bodies to serve him (Rom. 6:8-14)

- (b) Spiritual service of worship — reasonable, logical.

The mind controls the emotions and the will

- (c) The renewal of the mind (Eph. 4:17-24)

- (d) Doing God's will (Consider the example of Jesus)

God's will is:

- good; (see Rom 8:28)
- well-pleasing;
- perfect (teleios = as in telescope: ultimate end)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. How can a Christian be a 'living sacrifice'?
2. Why must the reason have priority over the will and the emotions?
3. Where do we find the 'reasons' for our spiritual service of worship?
4. Why does the mind need to be transformed?
5. How can we know God's will?

STUDY 3

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIFE

(a) Away from the world

1 Jn. 2:15-17

Lk. 9:23-26

Jn. 16:33

(b) Towards Christ

(1) The purpose of predestination (Rom. 8:28-30)

(2) A warning against perfectionism (Phil. 3:8-14)

(3) The great hope (1 Jn. 3:2-3)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. What strong hindrances in the world hinder Christian growth
2. What is 'tribulation' in the world, and how can it be overcome?
3. What is God's ultimate purpose for every Christian?
4. Why is perfectionism wrong?

STUDY 4

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

- (a) The growth of the Kingdom in the world (Mat. 13 = 7 parables of growth)
- (b) Discipling the nations
 - (1) The command and commission (Mat. 28:16-20)
 - (2) The grand vision (Mic. 4:1-5; Is. 11:9)
 - (3) The healing of the nations (Rev. 22:1-2)
- (c) The 'fullness' of the nations (Rom. 11:25-31)
- (d) The great consummation (Rev. 5:8-10)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. In what ways does the Kingdom grow in the world?
2. How can we be involved in the discipling of the nations?
3. In what ways are Rev 5:8-10 and 21:1-7 connected?

STUDY 5

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BODY IN THE RESURRECTION

- (a) The wonderful promise (Phil. 3:21)
- (b) The facts of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:42-55)
- (c) The great consolation of the resurrection (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Why is the resurrection of Christ vitally important for Christians?
2. What may we say to believers and then to unbelievers about the resurrection?
3. What will happen to us ultimately if we die before the Second Coming of Christ?

STUDY 6

THE TRANSFORMATION OF HISTORY IN TIMES OF REVIVAL

A definition of revival:

'It is an extraordinary work of God by his Holy Spirit effecting a reformation of the Church locally or nationally, and changing the course of history.'

- (a) In times of idolatry (Hab. 2:18 – 3:2)
- (b) In times of unfaithfulness and chastisement (Is. 43:8-21)
- (c) In times of God's anger (Ps. 85)
- (d) In times of Church decline (Is. 35:1-10)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

1. Discuss the accuracy of the definition of revival given above.
2. Why is revival needed in the Church today?
3. What good things does God do in times of revival?
4. What should we pray concerning revival?