

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY TWENTY-EIGHT

A Compelling Commitment

Romans 12:1–2

God wants your everyday moments. The moments you spend at your office, your home, the place where you work, the shop, the factory, the sales meetings, the planning sessions, the hours you spend in your car, or relaxing with friends, or even all alone. Offer all that as individual acts of worship.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WALKING across the stage for graduation. Launching a new career. Standing at the altar to tie the knot “till death do us part.” What do these events have in common?

They are all *epochal* moments—highly significant turning points that mark the beginning of a new chapter of life. *What was* is no more. *What will be* lies ahead. The point between “before” and “after” is this epochal moment.

Scripture records many moments like these. Can you hear God’s voice stopping Abraham who has a sharp knife in his hand ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22)? Can you hear Him calling the 80-year-old Moses from the burning bush to go to Pharaoh to bring Israel out of slavery (Exodus 3)? Or hear Him whisper to Samuel to anoint young David as the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16)? Irresistible, life-altering, and consequential moments that forever changed lives.

In this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we find Paul urging his readers to surrender their lives to God’s will. Such a life change begins with a never-to-be-forgotten decision that significantly redefines our daily routines, creates new responsibilities and priorities, and alters our perspectives and future aspirations. Paul invites us to experience something truly epochal after which our lives will never be the same.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Frances Ridley Havergal wrote this great hymn to express her commitment to the Lord—her deep desire for Him to reign as supreme in her life.

*Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days—
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.¹*

Join your heart with hers as you sing, and ask the Holy Spirit to use your Bible study to transform your thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In Romans, Paul marked significant events in our journey of faith with the word, *therefore*. The first major milestone concludes Romans 1–4 and marks the moment we were made right with God:

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1 NASB)

The second major milestone culminates Paul’s explanation of how to live free from sin and guilt in chapters 6–7 and declares our security in Christ:

Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.
(8:1 NASB)

Can you identify these two markers of salvation and security in your own spiritual journey? How have you experienced the truths in these verses?

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After assuring his readers that God is always and forever faithful—that He has not forgotten Israel when He opened the door of salvation to the gentiles (Romans 9–11)—Paul set in place a third “therefore.” Let’s look closer at this significant milestone.



Observation: A Compelling Statement of Commitment

So far, Paul has dealt almost exclusively with the vertical relationship between God and us. In the rest of Romans, chapters 12–16, Paul focuses his lens on our horizontal relationships. At this turning point between receiving grace from God and extending grace toward others, Paul calls each believer to make a life-changing commitment.

Observation is the first step in discovering the meaning of a passage.² Observe [Romans 12:1–2](#) in the NLT, NASB, NET, and the J. B. Phillips as if you were looking at it for the first time. Note the key commands, “present,” “do not be conformed,” and “be transformed” (Romans 12:1–2 NASB). How does the “therefore” connect this section to the previous chapters?

Consecration—Romans 12:1

As Paul sent his readers out of the classroom of Christian doctrine into the world, he pleaded with his readers to consecrate themselves to God. This is our epochal moment, our first bold step into the world of practical Christian living. Thoughtfully and repetitively read [Romans 12:1](#). To whom did Paul address this urgent appeal? On what is this urgency based? What is the appeal?

This is the passionate commitment. That’s why we find Paul on his knees. It is directed toward believers. This is truth for the Christian. Is it ever! And it begins with consecration. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Transformation—Romans 12:2

Consecration leads to transformation. Pay close attention to [Romans 12:2](#). How would you summarize the first command that Paul gave to believers? How does the second command accentuate our cooperation? Where does transformation begin and then flow out of?

We filter what is happening through what we're learning from the Scriptures, which is the standard for life and practice. Then we choose, we make our decisions based on scriptural guidelines. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

What is the result of a transformed mind?

It results in proving the will of God is good and bringing you to a well-formed maturity. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Consecration and Transformation

Paul addressed consecration in [Romans 12:1](#) by pleading with believers to offer their bodies to God. Consecration is a radical separation from a secular worldview to a godly purpose and mind-set. You can explore the word [consecration](#) further in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible* at [biblegateway.com](#). What is significant about being consecrated to God? What does it mean to live a consecrated life?

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Get up on the altar. “Present your bodies . . .” Please observe that it is the body that’s being presented. The secular world appeals to the body. The eyes take in all kinds of sensual portraits, pictures, and images. The ear hears all kinds of coarse and profane words, suggestive words, dirty words, gossip, slanderous words. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

How would you explain the meaning and significance of offering *all* aspects of our being as an act of worship as Paul mentioned in [Romans 12:1](#) in the MSG and the J. B. Phillips translations?

Observe, it is a “holy sacrifice.” Not only living, but it is holy. That word means to be set apart unto God. And also observe that it is acceptable to God and it is the reasonable act of worship. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul provides the key to transformation in [12:2](#). The Greek word for “be transformed” is *metamorphoo*, from which we get the English word *metamorphosis*. The verb is passive. Instead of letting the world *conform* us, we let God *transform* us like caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies. Our part is to commit ourselves to this process and cooperate with the Spirit’s work.

How does the current “age” infiltrate our minds or squeeze us into its mold? How does letting God transform you by “changing the way you think” help you discern and do God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will?

Aion is the Greek word translated here, unfortunately, “world.” We could call it the world system. It is all the stuff that makes up our culture. The world’s culture and biblical truths are incompatible. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Correlation: Living Sacrifices Offered to God

The Bible is replete with stories of young and old people who offered their all on God's altar. Abraham was more than one hundred years old when he climbed the mountain of obedience to offer Isaac, the one through whom blessings would come to all nations (*Genesis 22:1–18*). How can you compare Abraham's commitment to the believers' call to follow Christ in *Luke 14:25–33*?

Our postmodern era has removed the line between right and wrong and blurred it to mean that “wrong” is wrong only if you feel it’s wrong. I don’t answer to a God who will ask me, “Well, how’d you feel about your life? Did you like it?” “No, as a matter of fact, Lord, a lot of it was sacrificial. A lot of it I did because You wanted me to do it, but I didn’t feel like doing it. I did it out of obedience.”
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Daniel and his three Hebrew teenaged friends did not get sucked into the vortex of the Babylonian culture (*Daniel 1 and 3*). Although Babylon changed their names, it could not change their allegiance to Yahweh. How did they resolve to live for an audience of One? What role might their parents have played in their spiritual training?

The era in which we live and the ones to come will require that kind of standing alone. You’ll get sucked into the vortex of our age if you do not perfect that discipline. Teach your children how to do it, how to think for themselves, how to act correctly with courtesy and good manners, graciousness, just like the Scriptures teach. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Application: Offer Your All on God's Altar!

Evaluation—an unguarded evaluation of our own spiritual condition—is essential to the last step of the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method.² Think of all the different parts of your body. What practical ways can you continuously offer your eyes and ears on God's altar? How can you offer your hands and feet? How can you make everyday moments be individual acts of worship?

I suggest you form a habit this next week of saying, “Lord, this is Yours. Lord, this drive between my work and between my home . . . this is Your drive. Control my eyes.” As you get out of your car and walk into the place where you work, “Lord today my eyes are Your eyes. My lips are Yours. My motives are Your motives. My responses, my attitude, those are Yours. Take it all. I bring it before You as an offering.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Transformation occurs through *deliberately determining to think biblically and act accordingly*. Transformation begins in the mind. Fear, coveting, worry, lust, and striving are symptoms of thinking worldly thoughts. Can you see signs of the culture dominating your thoughts? In what areas do you need to think biblically (meditate on God's truth) and act accordingly?

Determine today to put the stake down, put a date on it, write it in the margin of your Bible, stop it. Put it in your journal. Either that or it'll be another feel-good sermon that you'll want somebody else to listen to. But if you really take this to heart, you'll stop it. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

As Daniel and his friends took a stand in a culture that tried to squeeze them into its mold, in what way has the Holy Spirit used this passage to move you to take the stand?

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Our dependence on You, our Father, is total. It isn't partial. You have asked our all. You haven't asked for some of who we are and a part of what's easy to give You. You've asked for our all. That kind of compelling commitment is standard operating procedure for those who live happily in Your family, who know the joy of full blessing. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



A FINAL PRAYER

In view of God's mercy toward you, express your reasonable response and total commitment to Your Savior. May this be an epochal moment that could even change the course of your life.

ENDNOTES

1. Frances Ridley Havergal, "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated," in *The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship* (n.p.: Word Music / Integrity Music, 1997), hymn 597.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2007, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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