

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

18 October 2020

1. Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought;
2. We each have different gifts, so use your gifts to build up the body;
3. Love sincerely;
4. Be devoted to one another in love;
5. Honour one another above yourselves;
6. Never be lacking in zeal;
7. Be joyful in hope;
8. Be patient in affliction;
9. Be faithful in prayer;
10. Share with those in need and practise hospitality;
11. Bless those who persecute you;
12. Rejoice with those who rejoice;
13. Mourn with those who mourn;
14. Live in harmony with each other;
15. Don't be proud but be willing to associate with those of low position;
16. Don't repay anyone evil for evil;
17. Live at peace with everyone in so far as it depends on you;
18. Don't take revenge but leave it to God;
19. Feed and give drink to your enemy if needed;
20. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Application. How different RBC would be if we all put this into practice! How

different Ryde would be if all churches were full of people doing the same.

God's word is not a technical manual which we are to learn by rote, unlike what often happens in the Islamic mad-rasas where the Qur'an is learnt by rote without necessarily any deep understanding of it.

We could do well to learn from Islam, however, and commit ourselves to memorizing verses from the Bible, as long as we don't become proud of our achievement forgetting to put what we have memorized into practice. Amen

SUGGESTED SONG

Take My Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA9zA7O6bH0>

BLESSING

'May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.'

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Dear Friends,

A while back I was surfing the internet and came across a useful chart headed '50 Ways to Take a Break'. At the time I didn't know where it had come from, but I subsequently discovered its origin and you can see it for yourself if you follow the link on our Facebook page or today's Website page. It is useful because it contains all sorts of suggestions, many of which I would never have thought about, for stopping and taking time, even a very short time, doing something very different. So often we can be caught up in our cares and concerns, our activities; or the opposite, we can be numbed into thinking there is nothing we can do and the energy can drain from us. The simple ideas on the chart, many of which don't cost anything or require any additional resources, really can help us to find the 'me time' that we desperately crave.

Our culture tells us that for our mental health and wellbeing we do need this 'me time', this distraction or break from the pressures and influences that might harm or damage us. Even when we cannot and should not give up the responsibility, something that reminds us of the rest of life and puts things into perspec-

tive is highly valuable. Which is why there is something much better than 'me time', and that is 'God time'! The fifty ways to take a break on the list are all excellent, but none of them on their own leads us to the one who is the source of our true health, strength and hope. Our Gospel reading today reminds us to give back to God what belongs to him, and that begins with our time. Time spent with God is the best and most effective break we will ever need. Appreciating the presence of God in each of the fifty suggested activities will be most transformative of all.

In today's Sermon, Ian Pratt introduces us to another list from Romans 12 which perhaps should be titled '20 Ways to Be Transformed'! If we can become better and more spiritually and mentally healthy people by taking time out to be with God, then there are also ways we can build a better and more healthy community of Christ's people. Some of the things might sound obvious, but they are there because the Apostle Paul was finding that even the obvious things were missing in the early Church, or people were just simply getting things wrong. There are many lessons we can learn and apply to our experience today.

Zoom is the safest way for most people to meet during this time, and will continue to be the main way we will meet for some time to come. Our Zoom Sunday Service is at 10.30am today and our Zoom Monday Prayer Meeting is at 7.00pm tomorrow. If you are able to join us, you will be very welcome. The Zoom links will be sent to those who have signed up to receive them. If you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can also click on the readings and songs. There is more information at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

CALL TO WORSHIP

'Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise...' (Psalm 96:1-4a)

BIBLE READINGS

[Psalm 96:1-13](#)

[Matthew 22:15-22](#)

[Romans 12:1-21](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Lord I Lift Your Name On High
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQiapzfQoq0>

Holy And Anointed One
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0ra65zeFbo>

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of this new day and the chance to meet with you and with each other in worship and to bear witness to your love for this world and all its people. We thank you for the way that you have demonstrated your love in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who we honour and adore, and in whose name we give ourselves as living sacrifices, which we pray will be holy and pleasing to you. Help us, by the inspiration and power of your Holy Spirit, with the task of change and transformation in our lives. As we commit ourselves to you, help us never to be the same as we were the day before, and always to aspire to be better tomorrow than we are today. Give us the grace to forgive others and ourselves, just as in your grace you have forgiven us so much. Accept us, we pray, as we seek with your help to conform our lives to your good, pleasing and perfect will. Amen.

TO PONDER

When we think about spending time with God, the three top things that will spring to mind are probably *prayer*, *reading the Bible*, and joining with others in *worship*. Yet God is interested in all the intimate details of our lives. After all, he created us and knows us far better than we even know ourselves. Think about the activities and tasks of

your day, and how they might be transformed if you acknowledge or invite God's presence into them. What things might you no longer do, or do differently, inspired by knowing this time is spent with God? What new things might you take up as a result of spending time with God, knowing that you now have the courage and strength of God to do so?

SUGGESTED SONG

The Lord's My Shepherd
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-elQQayhpak>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. When I [Ian] was at Sunday School, I was enrolled to do scripture examinations. I did not see the point of it so when the exam date arrived, I just did not turn up. My teachers were disappointed. It was only when I became a Christian at University in 1970 that I understood the value of studying and learning about the bible.

There is a danger in reading the Bible and in hearing good sermons, however. That danger is that we can become more concerned to become *informed* than to be *transformed*. The goal of Bible reading, and study is not to know more about the Bible stories but for the word of God to transform and change us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Hence Paul writes in his letter to the church at Rome "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Exposition. In church life I am always looking for people who are possibly older than me but who are certainly older in the faith for me to look up to as role models. In Ryde Baptist church there are a few of these, although I always need to remember that we all have feet of clay and we are all flawed by sin. So, I must not become discouraged when someone I look up to lets me down in some way.

Two specific things which have helped me become more transformed to the image of Christ are to be married and to have children. Sally and my children don't let me get away with much! It is not to say that those who are single and who have never had children cannot be transformed but God will use different methods to help transform them.

One of the ways that all of us can be transformed is by our interaction with others in the local church. In church life we are put together with others with whom we may never normally have associated. Some folk will annoy us immensely, whereas we will temperamentally be drawn to others. Sadly, some people opt out of this transformation process if everything is not to their liking!

Therefore Romans 12 from verse 3 is so important, as it speaks of humble service in the body of Christ. In other words, putting into practice the transformed life.

There are several key principles Paul outlines: