

Do Not Be Conformed to This World #2

Rom 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.

* **What is** one of the main ways the world is trying to squeeze us into its mould today?

* **Jesus and the Roman centurion** (Mat 8.5-13)

Mat 8.5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." 7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

– **Based on** his words and actions, how does the centurion view Jesus?

– **Why does** Jesus praise the centurion's faith?

– **According to** Jesus, who are invited to his kingdom and what is the sole basis for inclusion?

– **Why will** many 1st century Israelites be excluded? What was the false gospel they were believing?

– **What was** another false gospel prevalent at the time?

Acts 17.6 "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 ... [A]nd these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — Jesus."

– **What kind** of "peace" did Rome bring?

– **How were** ethnic feuds justified in that day?

– **Why, in** God's providence, is so much of the NT devoted to the enmity between Jew and Gentile?

– **What are** some examples of the false gospel of totalitarianism in the ancient world and in the modern?

– **What makes** the gospel of Christ and his kingdom truly revolutionary, and how does it work?

– **How does** totalitarianism differ from the societal structure God put in place with OT Israel?

Deut 6.5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words ... shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house ...

Deut 17.15 [Y]ou shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses ... 16 [H]e shall not multiply horses for himself ... 17 Neither shall he multiply wives ... lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold ... 18 Also ... he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book ... 19 ... and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law ... 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren ...

– **Despite their** promises, what have totalitarian regimes produced? What did God do to prevent the totalitarian regime envisioned at the tower of Babel? (Gen 11.1-9)

Acts 17.30 “God ... now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Rom 2.15 ... their conscience also bearing witness, and ... their thoughts accusing or else excusing them 16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ

Mat 22.37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mat 6.12 “And forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors ... 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

John 13.34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples”

Rom 5.8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... 10 ... [W]hen we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son ...

Rom 8.15 [Y]ou receive the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

– **All modern** totalitarian regimes have arisen through what, and what is the big picture problem with it?