



## **The Letter to the Romans**

### **Transformation and Living in the Light of Day**

**Wednesday, September 16**

**6:30 PM-8:00 PM**

#### **Reading**

#### **Chapters 12 and 13**

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Questions to Consider**

##### **Chapter 12**

1. After spending the majority of the Letter to the Romans exploring theological concepts, Paul turns in Chapter 12 and the following chapters to the issues of how Christians live in the world that they are a part of. The main theme of these chapters is stated in verses one and two. In particular, Paul calls on his audience to "...let God **transform** you..." The term transformation is used only by Paul, and only in the Letters to the Philippians, Corinthians, and Romans. Other New Testament sources may suggest the idea, but do not state it explicitly. It is foreign to the Old Testament. What is your understanding of transformation? Is it the same as change? Please share your transformation story, if you wish. Is transformation a process or an event?

2. In Romans, as in his other letters, Paul emphasizes the importance of **love**. He also emphasizes, "Never pay back evil with more evil." What is this love of which he writes? How can it be practiced and recognized? Why are we still paying back evil with evil and speaking ill of each other two thousand years later? Is there a solution?

##### **Chapter 13**

3. Paul explains what "Living in the Light of Day" meant for him (Romans 13:11-14). What does it mean for you? His understanding was informed by his belief that Christians must be ready for the imminent return of Jesus. He expected this to happen any day. In the 21st Century, there are no signs of the physical return of Jesus, what informs our belief and inspires our actions?

#### **What does this segment of Romans mean for me today?**

#### **Closing Prayer**