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“To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

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Session 7: The Renewing of Our Minds

Welcome to this Session 7 of our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans, where we will be looking at Chapters 12 and 13 primarily. You remember that last month, we got through Chapter 11 of this wonderful letter where Paul finally has to say, “I trust that God is faithful even though I don’t fully understand how God is at work.” And Paul reminds his readers that they don’t fully understand either, and thus, should engage God with confidence in God and some humility about their own ability to perceive what God is up to. That’s a powerful combination for all of us to keep in mind.

Paul explores that in Chapters 12 and 13. And Chapter 12 may be particularly rich for us because it begins by calling upon us to have our minds renewed, indeed, transformed by a whole new way of thinking. No longer do the ways of the world shape our evaluations of one another or even one another’s ideas, thinking, success, failures. But it will be that we are to be transformed, Paul says, in our service to God by serving one another with an equal humility and concern for each other’s mutual up-building. You’ll see that in Chapter 12, when Paul talks about each of us being members of one body, that being the body of Christ. “Dear friends,” Paul says, “If we belong to Christ who while we were yet sinners and weak”—back to Chapter 5—“gave himself for us, how much more can we do that for one another.” It will be an interesting session, I promise you, especially as you think about how it might work out in your own lives. Enjoy it.