

## Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions

### Romans 12

Francis and Edith Schaeffer met on a Sunday night, June 26, 1932, at a Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia where a Unitarian speaker was teaching why he did not believe in the Bible nor that a personal God exists. Although they did not meet until that night as two teenagers, what did they both have in common?

Francis and Edith Schaeffer started L'Abri, a retreat chalet in the Swiss Alps for young people and young adults who were struggling with their faith or had no faith at all in the Bible or a personal God. It was a place where they could be honest without condemnation and search for a faith in God. How could Francis and Edith's pilgrimage of faith help these searchers?

Francis Schaeffer wrote numerous books, along with Edith, dealing with basic tenets of Christianity. Two of the books written in the 1970's were *The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century* and *How Shall We Then Live?* One thing that is prominent in both books is that we would be living in an age of manipulation in Western Culture. How do you see that happening in our time? What do Paul words to Timothy have to say about this in 2 Timothy 3:1-5?

In the letter to the Romans, Paul shares in the first 11 chapters the basic truths of the Christian life, such as: Sin, Salvation in Jesus, Redemption, Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. What do these words mean?

In chapter 12, the Apostle Paul turns from the didactic to the practical. He teaches us how we are to live the Christian life. There are four basic practicalities.

#### **1 – BECOMING LIVING SACRIFICES**

Knowing Jesus as Savior – What does it mean to KNOW Jesus?

Focusing upon Jesus as our goal - How is that played out in one's life? Note: Hebrews 12:1-2

Living different from the World – What does the World mean? How is that possible?

Note: 1 John 2:15-16

Worship with your whole person – Mind, Emotions, and Will

How does the pig illustration relate to this practical truth?

## **2 – LIVING IN GOD’S GRACE**

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What is Paul saying? How does that relate to you?

We are to live in Joy. How do we experience Joy? – John 15:11

Paul tells us in verse 3, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.” What does that say to you?

What does this statement say to you? “Don’t think less of yourself but think of yourself less.”

## **3 – Developing your Giftedness**

Our bodies have many members that serve a particular function to keep us alive and live productively. What happens when one or more of those members of our body doesn’t function or function properly?

How does this relate to the Body of Christ?

How do we learn to serve God and listen to Him? Why is that important?

## **4 – RADIATING GOD’S LOVE**

We are to be channels of God’s love? How does that play out in one’s life?

Note: John 13:35

What happens when the channel gets clogged?

How do you show God’s love?

## **CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION:**

What do you learn from the closing story of Lord Radstock and the little girl at the piano playing “plink, plunk, plink, plunk?”