

## Readings for Sunday, September 18, 2022

Romans 12:1-2

from the New Revised Standard Version

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Brian McLaren

*excerpts from Do I Stay Christian: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*

In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, I proposed that the purpose of the Christian faith is clear and simple: it is not an evacuation plan to heaven but a transformation plan for earth, a transformation plan built on the strategy of helping people become loving human beings who build loving societies, following the loving example of Jesus.

If you persist in minimizing the failures of the past, brushing them aside as trivial matters, then please realize: to growing millions of people, you now represent the contemporary failure of Christianity to transform lives.