

July 2014 Devotional: Molding Our Lives - Spiritually or Worldly? Submitted by Bob Cooper

Reading: 2 Timothy: Chapter 1

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,

that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(Romans 12:2 KJV)

Cookie making and molding rolled flour dough through a press to form figures, may be a weird picture of *conforming* or “molding our lives” as presented in Romans 12:2. Sadly, the world always tries to mold our lives in ways that are contrary to God’s will. Yet fortunately, our prayers strengthen and help us to remain free and clear of being poured into the world’s mold. This is especially true for our children and grandchildren. We pray daily, for the Holy Spirit to guide them away from the world’s ways and influence, in shaping their thinking, beliefs, and practices. The enticement of the world deceives and attracts people everywhere down a pathway of easy living and pleasure. The secular world wants nothing to do with us caring our cross for Jesus on earth. The secular plan is hopeful that we will water down our convictions so we become inadequate in building God’s Kingdom on earth.

Today, from all sides, the Christian is faced with excessive pressure for culture to change the Bible, instead of letting the Bible change the culture. Our world today is dictating what is truth and most people could care less about the world’s control over their lives. The relentless war for the Christian involves always striving to pattern one’s self after the **Word of God**—but certainly not to make the Bible fit a certain culture. Let us use our Bibles and commit ourselves to the good news that Christ Jesus offers in living differently from the world around us. We should refuse to allow the world to help us interpret the Scriptures, to keep up with the demands of culture. Press on to be molded by God’s Word as Paul told Timothy: “Hold fast to form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:13).

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught

that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

(Titus 1:9)