Romans 12:2c, Renovation of Thought; Theology of Neurology: Stats & Vocabulary

anakainosis - "*renewal*"; "*renovation*"

The best English word to translate this noun is "*renovation*." Renovation is defined as follows:

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "renovation":

> *To restore to a former better state as by cleaning, repairing, or rebuilding. To restore to life, vigor, or activity. Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "renovation":*
>
> *To renew materially. To restore by replacing lost or damaged parts. To restore to vigor. To renew on a higher level. A change effected by renewal.*

nous - "*thought*"

This word emphasizes the ability to understand incoming information in an intellectual way. The shorthand we have developed for this is "academic understanding" in the left lobe of the soul, i.e., the *nous*.

This is where the human thought process is able to construct rationales by which we come to logical conclusions and make decisions for action. In other words, the recovering reversionist must begin to program his soul with doctrines from the Divine Academy instead of lies from the Cosmic Academy.

When decisions are made in favor of these thoughts, then volition responds to truth rather than the lie. The end result is that the wheel-tracks which are laid down are fashioned by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit rather than the felonious concepts of cosmic propaganda. This is the pure grace of spiritual growth. When the Holy Spirit fills the soul, He is in charge of the soul.

When you make a nonmeritorious decision to believe revealed truth in the *nous*, then the Holy Spirit does the work of laying down new wheel-tracks in the soul.

The device which God so "astonishingly and wonderfully made" into which this information is catalogued and stored is the human brain.

> **Romans 12:2** - Stop being molded in association with this age but be transformed by means of the renovation of your thought, for the purpose of proving what the will of God is, namely, the good, the well-pleasing, and the complete.

I. Statistics and Vocabulary

This then sets the stage for the next increment of our study, one which we shall call …

The Theology of Neurology

I. Statistics and Vocabulary

The human brain is thought to consist of perhaps 100 billion individual neurons, each neuron a separate cell. A neuron consists of a cell body containing the nucleus and a number of fibers extending from it. The nucleus is composed of DNA—deoxyribonucleic acid—the genetic material into which the cell's entire inventory of activities is encoded.

It is estimated that there are about 100,000 different genes that make up the 46 chromosomes of the human cell. The brain's neurons utilize 50,000 or more of these genes, around 30,000 of which are unique to the brain. The purpose of the neuron is to transmit information to other cells. It does this by sending signals out one particular fiber called the axon. All other fibrous extensions out from the cell body are called dendrites. They receive information from other neurons.

The neuron is the functional unit of the brain. It receives information at its dendrites and sends information out to other neurons along its axon. The axon ends in a terminal called a synapse, the connection between an axon and another neuron.

The very tiny space between the synapses of the axon and the other cell's dendrite is called the synaptic cleft. To be precise, the synapse is the site where the axon's terminal and the dendrite's terminal are in close contact. They virtually—but not quite—touch. Each neuron's dendrites have several thousand synapses, therefore, whereas the neurons may total in excess of 100 billion, the synapses total well over a trillion.

Fact: The total number of possible different combinations of synaptic connections among the neurons of a single human brain is larger than the total number of atomic particles that make up the known universe. This means that the total possibility of interconnections in a single human brain is a number which cannot be imagined by the finite mind.

It seems likely that learning involves the establishment of new connections or circuits in the brain. Once these new connections are established, they seem relatively permanent. As connections occur between neurons at the synapses, information is passed over the synaptic cleft by means of chemical transmitters.

It is the neuron which "decides" to send data down the axon to its synapse and chemically transmit the information across the synaptic cleft to another neuron. The catalyst for this, unmentioned in any of our neurological textbooks, is human volition.