

Session #45: “A LIVING SACRIFICE”—Romans 12:1-2

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

Questions:

- In verse 1, what does “therefore” refer to?
- To whom does the exhortation in verses 1 & 2 refer to? Believers only or all people?
- What is the motivation for the exhortation? The manner in which it begins? Do you think your life will be more miserable if you dedicate your life to the Lord?
- What is the means by which the exhortation is fulfilled? What is the overall motive for doing it?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

THE PROBLEMS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 9:1-11:36

• THE PRACTICES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 12:1-15:33

1A. **AS TO LIVING FOR THE LORD** - ROMANS 12:1-8 = “therefore” - **in the light of all** he has said so far!

Rom 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, **brethren, by the mercies of God**,*

Cf. Eph 4:1; Heb. 10:19

1B. **The MOTIVATION for it** - “**by the mercies of God**” - Greek: *oiktirmos* - 5 times - 2 Cor. 1:3 (Father of mercies); Phil. 2:1; Col. 3:12; Heb. 10:28 - *oiktirmon* - used 3 times - cf. James 5:11

1C. It **Refers only to believers** - “**brethren**” - cf. 2 Cor. 5:14 **His love for us compels us!!!**

2C. It **Results in strong counsel** - “**beseech**” - Greek: *parakaleo* - 107 times, 53 by Paul - cf. Rom. 15:30; 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 4:1; 1 Thess. 4:1 - the basis is of what God has done for you!

that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2B. **The MANNER in which it begins** - “**that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service**”

1C. A **personal Response that is given to God Himself** - “**that you present your bodies... to God**” “present” - Greek: *paristemi* - 46 times - cf. Rom. 6:13, 16, 19; 14:10; 16:2; Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22, 28; 2 Tim. 2:15 cf. Luke 2:22 - dedicating your child to the Lord.

2C. A **clear Recognition that all you are and have belongs to God** - “**a living sacrifice**”- “sacrifice” - not referring to the act of offering, **but the sacrifice itself (animal)! It means that you are the animal-the burnt offering!!!**- Prov. 15:8 - “the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord” - cf. Isaiah 1:11-15 - cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 - **we belong to God now! We are to commit ourselves totally to God all the days of our life,** kissing goodbye to our desires, our goals, our aspirations!! - cf. Hebrews 13:15-16

3C. A **strong Realization of what God now expects of you!** “**holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service**”

1D. In **terms of morality** - “**holy**” - cf. 1 Pet. 1:14-17 **God wants holiness in His children! – Be separate!!!**

2D. In **terms of motivation** - “**acceptable unto God**” - well-pleasing - Cf. Col. 1:10; Heb. 13:20-21

3D. In **terms of ministry** - “**your reasonable service**” – logical - Greek: *latreian* - the **attitude in our hearts is more important to God than the sacrifice itself** - cf. Micah 6:6-8

Rom 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

3B. **The MEANS by which it is fulfilled in your life** - “*and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” How do you know that you are dedicated to the Lord?

1C. The **Problem of conforming** - Greek: *suschematidzesthe* - only used in **1 Pet. 1:14** besides here. cf. **Titus 2:11-14** and **1 John 2:15-17** – **Stop putting on the mask of the world!**

1D. **It assumes** that **this is our natural tendency (Stop being conformed!)**

2D. **It implies** that **it is out of character for us** - **2 Cor. 5:17** cf. **1 Pet. 1:14**

3D. **It teaches us that the world has nothing worth imitating or desiring** - cf. **1 John 2:15-17**

4D. **It reveals how destructive the world’s system can be** to our **Christian commitment** and **growth.**

2C. The **Process of transformation** - Greek: *metamorphousthe* - used 4 times - **Matt. 17:2; Mark 9:2; 2 Cor. 3:18**

1D. **It reveals the importance** of the **mind in all we say and do** - cf. **Rom. 7:25; 14:5; Phil. 2:5**

2D. **It teaches that the transformation is done to us**, not by us! - **(a work of the Holy Spirit)**

3D. **It assumes we don’t normally think** the way God wants us to think - cf. **Isa. 55:8-9**

4D. **It proves that great changes would take place if our minds were controlled by what God says** rather than **by what the world says!**

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

4B. **The MOTIVE for doing it** - “*that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, will of God*” - “*prove*” - Greek: *dokimazo* - used 22 times – **metals tested in the fire to see how pure they are.** cf. **Jer. 23:29; Heb. 12:29** - We continue to test out the will of God by renewal and transformation.

1C. **To prove that it is good – to test out in your life to see that good will of God.** cf. **John 7:17-18; Eph. 5:10**

2C. **To prove that it pleases God**

3C. **To prove that it is perfect** - (**complete** in every way - just what we need!)

cf. **John 4:31-34** - Jesus compared this to a meal....(1) **good for you – healthy;** (2) **well-pleasing - tastes good;** (3) **perfect - completely satisfying**

Romans 12:1-2 – Pass it on this week!!!

Charles H. Spurgeon - Evening, October 14

[Go To Morning Reading](#) “*And be not conformed to this world.*”

Romans 12:2

If a Christian can by possibility be saved while he conforms to this world, at any rate it must be so as by fire. Such a bare salvation is almost as much to be dreaded as desired. Reader, would you wish to leave this world in the darkness of a desponding death bed, and enter heaven as a shipwrecked mariner climbs the rocks of his native country? then be worldly; be mixed up with Mammonites, and refuse to go without the camp bearing Christ’s reproach. But would you have a heaven below as well as a heaven above? Would you comprehend with all saints what are the heights and depths, and know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge? Would you receive an abundant entrance into the joy of your Lord? Then come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing. Would you attain the full assurance of faith? you cannot gain it while you commune with sinners. Would you flame with vehement love? Your love will be damped by the drenchings of godless society. You cannot become a great Christian—you may be a babe in grace, but you never can be a perfect man in Christ Jesus while you yield yourself to the worldly maxims and modes of business of men of the world. It is ill for an heir of heaven to be a great friend with the heirs of hell. It has a bad look when a courtier is too intimate with his king’s enemies. Even small inconsistencies are dangerous. Little thorns make great blisters, little moths destroy fine garments, and little frivolities and little rogueries will rob religion of a thousand joys. O professor, too little separated from sinners, you know not what you lose by your conformity to the world. It cuts the tendons of your strength, and makes you creep where you ought to run. Then, for your own comfort’s sake, and for the sake of your growth in grace, if you be a Christian, be a Christian, and be a marked and distinct one.