

## **Therefore Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Remember that old song, Count Your Blessings?

Well here is your chance. Just go back through the book of Romans and do two things.

First, list all the things that God has done for you.

Second, list all the wonderful attributes of God.

Then realize that you are in His good graces today if you know Jesus as your Savior.

If you really do all of that then Paul says that you have something you need to do.

Present your body a living sacrifice to God.

To many people that seems a little excessive. They think that God has set us free so that we can go our merry way.

Remember the story of the ten lepers that came to Jesus one day. Ten were cleansed but only one returned to give thanks. Jesus said, "Where are the nine."

Anyone standing by would agree with Him.

But when it comes to our salvation we have the messed up idea that we owe God nothing even though He as saved our eternal souls.

Paul does not think so.

I. I beseech you

A. Various translations

1. NET Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service.
2. NASB95 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
3. NLT And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to

worship him.

4. ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

- B. παρακαλέω [parakaleo /par·ak·al·eh·o/] v. From 3844 and 2564; TDNT 5:773; TDNTA 778; GK 4151; 109 occurrences; AV translates as “beseech” 43 times, “comfort” 23 times, “exhort” 21 times, “desire” eight times, “pray” six times, “intreat” three times, translated miscellaneously four times, and “vr besought” once. 1 to call to one’s side, call for, summon. 2 to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc. 2A to admonish, exhort. 2B to beg, entreat, beseech. 2B1 to strive to appease by entreaty. 2C to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort. 2C1 to receive consolation, be comforted. 2D to encourage, strengthen. 2E exhorting and comforting and encouraging. 2F to instruct, teach. James Strong, Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

## II. Therefore

- A. As you might have guessed we have come to a new section of the book of Romans.
1. We often call this the practical section, but that is bad because it seems to indicate that the doctrinal section is not practical.
  2. But this section might be considered the response section.
- B. The response section.
1. After all the great things we have read in the book of Romans Paul expects a certain response.
  2. It is not to be a ho hum response like many people give.
  3. No it is to be a life changing response.
  4. This is where the rubber meets the road.
  5. Those who understand the grace and mercy of God will have a proper response.
- C. Therefore, therefore.
1. When Paul uses the word therefore we need to know what it is there for.
  2. I think that Paul is referring to all that he has written from the beginning of the book.
  3. He tells us all about God, His love and mercy, His grace and His justice.
  4. He tells us of God’s longsuffering and patience toward us.

5. We find how God has provided for our salvation from sin by the sacrifice of His Son.
6. So Therefore what should we do.
  - a. Like Peter said in 2 Peter 3:11-14, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;”
  - b. There is a proper response to God, that is what they are saying.
  - c. If we know Him we will respond correctly to Him.

### III. Brethren

- A. Paul does not here address the unbeliever.
  1. This is not a formula to become a believer but a response that only a believer can produce.
- B. This is a term Paul lovingly uses to let them know that all believers are a part of the family of God.
- C. It is a term of relationship, not only to one another but also to God.

### IV. By the mercies of God

- A. By the mercies of God: he useth the word in the plural number, to amplify and set forth the manifold mercies of God, in election, justification, adoption, &c.: q.d. Seeing you Gentiles have received so many and so great mercies from God; seeing he hath preferred you to his ancient people the Jews, and hath chosen and called you, when he hath rejected them; as you value these mercies, let the consideration of them engage you to all manner of holiness and new obedience. *Poole*
- B. The illative particle "therefore," shows that the following exhortations are so many conclusions, consequences, and inferences, deduced from what had been said in the latter part of the preceding chapter; that since all things are of God, and by him and to him, then the saints ought to present their bodies to him, and to know, approve, and do his will; and since they have nothing but what they have received from him, they ought not to think too highly of, or glory in their attainments. *John Gill*
- C. "I beseech you"; as an ambassador of Christ, and as though in his stead: nor are they enforced by terrors, threats, and menaces, but "by the mercies of God"; that

is, the abundant mercy of God, displayed in their election, regeneration, and calling; than which, nothing can have a greater influence on a believer, to engage him to holiness of life and conversation; and shows, that the doctrines of grace are no licentious ones, nor do they render useless precepts, exhortations, entreaties, cautions, and advice, particularly such as follow; *John Gill*

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- V. That you present your bodies
- VI. A living sacrifice
- VII. Holy
- VIII. Acceptable to God
- IX. Which is your reasonable service