

Our Life A Living Sacrifice **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)**

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.

A living sacrifice.

In the Old Testament all the sacrifices were alive that is until they were sacrificed.

A sacrifice meant that that animal would give its life in the worship of God.

There is a big difference between an offering and a sacrifice.

As you remember the chicken saying to the pig. “You know farmer John is so good to us we ought to give him a good breakfast tomorrow of bacon and eggs.” To which the pig responded, “Wait a minute. That is only an offering to you but for me it is a total sacrifice.”

So how is it that Paul wants us to give our bodies as a living sacrifice to God?

Luke 9:23–24 (NKJV) Jesus said.

23 “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

The living sacrifice we are to offer to the Lord who died for us is **the willingness to surrender to Him all our hopes, plans, and everything that is precious to us, all that is humanly important to us, all that we find fulfilling.** *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 146.*

When Paul praised the saints of Macedonia for their generous giving the said in 2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV)

5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

When you have given yourself to the Lord then everything else is just small stuff.

- I. It is part of our priestly function.
 - A. 1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - B. Just as Jesus Christ had to take on Himself a body in order to accomplish God's will on earth, so we must yield our bodies to Christ that He might continue God's work through us. We must yield the members of the body as "instruments of

righteousness" (Rom. 6:13) for the Holy Spirit to use in the doing of God's work. The Old Testament sacrifices were dead sacrifices, but we are to be living sacrifices. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1, (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 554.*

II. This is part of our dying to the world.

- A. 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV) 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
- B. Romans 6:12-13 (NKJV) 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- C. Romans 8
 - 1. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
 - 2. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
 - 3. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- D. 1 Corinthians 15:31 (NKJV) 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
- E. Philippians 2:17 (NKJV) 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

III. This is a part of declaring our owner, Jesus Christ.

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV) 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
- B. Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.
- C. Romans 8:23 (NKJV) 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the

adoption, the redemption of our body.

- D. Romans 6:16 (NKJV) 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?
- IV. Abraham & Isaac are an example of a living sacrifice.
 - A. Hebrews 11:19 (NKJV) 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
- V. David understood the significance of this.
 - A. Psalm 51:17 (NKJV) 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.
 - B. 2 Samuel 12:13 (NKJV) 13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.
- VI. A living sacrifice.
 - A. Philippians 1:20-21 (NKJV) 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
 - B. The verb "present" in this verse means "present once and for all." It commands a definite commitment of the body to the Lord, just as a bride and groom in their wedding service commit themselves to each other. It is this once-for-all commitment that determines what they do with their bodies. Paul gives us two reasons for this commitment: (1) it is the right response to all that God has done for us—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God" (*italics mine*); and (2) this commitment is "our reasonable service" or "our spiritual worship." This means that every day is a worship experience when your body is yielded to the Lord. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1, (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2001), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 554.*
 - C. "So," Paul says, "take your body; take all the tasks that you have to do every day; take the ordinary work of the shop, the factory, the shipyard, the mine; and offer all that as an act of worship to God." *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 12. The True Worship and the Essential Change (Rom 12:1-2)".*
 - D. Here we have a most significant thing. True worship is the offering to God of one's body, and all that one does every day with it. Real worship is not the offering to God of a liturgy, however noble, and a ritual, however magnificent. Real worship is the offering of everyday life to him, not something transacted in a

church, but something which sees the whole world as the temple of the living God. *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 12. The True Worship and the Essential Change (Rom 12:1-2)".*