

A Living Sacrifice - Our Reasonable Service

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.

Therefore, on the basis of all that God in Christ Jesus has done for us we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

Then Paul tells us that this is but our reasonable service.

Man's problem with God is that we play down who God is and what man is in relationship to Him.

This is part of man's rebellion against God. To deny God His place as God.

Instead we set ourselves in the place of authority in our lives, and what we want becomes our primary goal.

God loves us so much and has done so much for us.

He has given us life and breath, health and joy in so many ways.

But modern religion has replaced God with man. They say we owe everything to evolution. They want us to find our life's purpose in serving mankind.

But these things are empty. They do not bring true satisfaction and peace of mind.

Only when we have God in His right place in our own heart as a person and in the right place as a community will we have peace in our hearts.

Only Jesus can bring that about. We are not strong enough to overcome the sin in our lives or society by our selves.

This is what the first commandment is all about. You shall love the Lord with all that you have and are and then and only then will we be right.

So then let us once again look at this passage and understand what God is saying to us.

- I. Our bodies as living sacrifices.
- II. Holy and acceptable.
- III. This is reasonable.
 - A. *logikos*. This means either a. "belonging to speech" or b. "belonging to reason." Sense a. does not occur in the NT but we find sense b. in 1Pe 2:2 ("spiritual"). Perhaps *logikos* is used here rather than *pneumatikos* {cf. 1Pe 2:5?} because, like milk, it is a familiar term in philosophy and mysticism. Parallels show that it may express the spiritualizing of the cultic, and this is its function in Ro 12:1, where

our bodies are to be offered, not in immolation, but in spiritual worship. {cf. 1Pe 2:5?} In Judaism, too, one finds moral spiritualizing of the cultus. In Paul, however, this is christological as well as ethical. It is based on the mercies of God in Christ, {Ro 12:1?} and the norm of conformity to the logos lies in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

- B. 1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure **milk** of the word, that you may grow thereby,
1. 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.
 2. This is a mental, a spiritual, an internal thing. It is the antithesis of the physical. *Martin Lloyd-Jones*
- C. Colossians 2: 16 ¶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- D. 1 Timothy 4:1-11 (NKJV) 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. 7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. 10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. 11 These things command and teach.

- E. Romans 14: 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- F. John 4: 19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

IV. This is service or worship.

A. Negative

1. Refrain from sin
2. Not use my body selfishly
3. Must not regard my body as private property.
 - a. 1 cor 6 you are not your own, you are bought with a price
4. Not for my own end
5. Do not pamper the body, you pay too much attention to it,
6. You don't live for the body.
7. Don't make it an idol
 - a. The ancient Greeks exalted the body
8. Don't abuse the body
9. Do not use for your selfish gratification.

B. Positively

1. Keep our bodies healthy as we can.
2. Give your body to God.
 - a. 1 Cor 7: 31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.
3. Use your body to serve God.

- a. The tongue
 - b. The voice
 - c. The eye
 - d. The mind
 - e. Remember that little song. O be careful little feet when you.
4. 1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.