

How Do You Worship?

Romans 12:1-2 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. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

❖ Prayer Time Reminder: You Must Take Steps to be a Disciplined Listener

❖ Intro

- **There is Much to be Said Here: We Will get through verse 1 today**
- **These verses are literally where the rubber meets the road...**
 - Do you understand that saying...
 - You have been learning about driving... Preparing to drive
 - Then you finally get behind the wheel...
 - You have been given all the instructions you need
- **When the rubber meets the road is where:**
 - All your planning and instruction turn into implementation...
 - Just doing it...
- **In Romans 12, Paul is going to show you how you are to Worship**
 - He just spent 11 chapters telling you about what Jesus had done
 - He explained what that means for you
 - He explained God's infinite mercy
 - **He went into great detail to let the Christians in Rome and those to follow**
 - That their being saved by God was from God's grace alone
 - And they have been made right with God, separate from their good deeds
 - And they will remain right with God independent of their good deeds
- **He uses argument after argument and explanation after explanation...**
 - **So you will know:**
 - **Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
 - I could spend an hour running through the wonderful verses in the first 11 chapters of Romans
 - But this one should suffice:
 - **Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
 - ◆ Let that sink in before we get started...
 - ◆ **Those who are in Christ Jesus...**
 - Meaning they have truly been born again and given the Spirit of God
 - Who have believed on the true Jesus
 - If they are in Him, then there is no condemnation for them
 - Even if they were murders who hunted down Christians cause they hated Jesus
 - ◆ **No Condemnation** – They will not be condemned... They will not be punished
 - For even the biggest of sins...
 - God will not condemn those who are in Christ Jesus...
- **Paul Spends 11 chapters trying to make that point and many others like it Clear...**
 - Then in chapter 12, He changes course a bit...
 - **In ch. 12 He is moving from what we believe...**
 - The great doctrines about Jesus...
 - **He is moving on to the Christian's Conduct**
 - How we live... or how we ought to live..
 - ◆ And I believe it is fascinating... and ever so helpful for us who are believers here today

- **What should your response be to these verses... (I usually ask this in the end...)**
 - **Our response should be a resounding AMEN... Meaning... Yes... We Agree**
 - Yes... Paul, I want to do this...
 - **This is a set of verses that are particularly important for the Christian...**
 - The Holy Spirit will work in the heart of the Christian this morning
 - ◆ To push him toward living out these verses...
 - **The non-Christian or those who think themselves Christian**
 - Will have difficulty understanding this in their heart...
 - Difficulty in seeing how to put this in practice...
 - Maybe these verses will make the non Christian see their need for the mercies of God...
- **Because it is the Mercies of God**
 - That Paul's appeal to us hinge on...
 - **And it is His mercy toward the lost sinner that becomes a Christian**
 - That urges them to give themselves up to God as a Living Sacrifice
 - That urges them to not conform to the world
 - That urges them to renew their mind
 - **So, if you are void of understanding these mercies today...**
 - Please call upon God...
- **To God's Children:**
 - Hear the urging of God today upon your life...
 - **Make Goals: Makes some goals to put these verses into practice**
 - I will ask you to do this at the end of service for next week
 - **Jesus Does Not Save us to leave us the same**
 - ◆ He plans to change us... so that everything about us is conformed to Him
 - ◆ Mentally, Emotionally, Physically, Relationally, Financially and Spirituall
 - **Let's Pray with this in mind**

❖ **Hear the Verses Again:**

- **Romans 12:1-2** 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. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Outline for Today:**
 - **1) An Urging is Made 2) Foundation of Paul's Earnest Request**
 - **3) We are told to Worship 4) Gives Yourselves to God**

❖ **1) An Urging is Made:**

- **Paul is begging here... this is what the word means...**
 - I beg you... I plead with you
 - It is the strongest way in which Paul can say... I am asking you to do this...
- **Biblical Examples:**
 - It is with this urgency that the centurion in Matthew came to Jesus for his paralyzed servant
 - It is the same way the demons begged not to be sent to the pit
 - The leper in Mark 1 came this way
 - Jarius came for his sick daughter who eventually died...
 - **And scriptures say..."he implored him earnestly..."**
- **And He is speaking to the Christians in Rome... he says brothers... my brothers in Christ**
 - **Please listen do what I am about to tell you**
- **I Have been placed in the spot of begging with people to listen**
 - I have come across people that pay no mind to their soul
 - And that at any moment they could leave this world and be lost for eternity
 - And their soul will darken the darkest holes of hell if they will not respond...
 - I have begged with them to listen...
- **Paul is begging here... He is urging believers everywhere to take this to heart and action**

❖ **2) Foundation of Paul's Earnest Request : Let's Look Briefly**

- **I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God**
- **Paul's Earnest Request is based on two things:**
 - 1) Truth 2) Mercy
- **1) Based on Truth: Therefore...** Paul's urging is based on the previous 11 chapters...
 - **I already spent a little time here on this, so I wont go much further**
 - Except to say: Our Doctrine will shape our Worship
 - What we believe about God has everything to do with how we worship Him
 - Worshipping God requires a love for Him
 - A love for God requires knowing God for who He truly is
 - It requires Not just knowing God... but rejoicing and enjoying who God is
- **2) Based on Mercy:**
 - **Paul says... I urge you therefore (pointing back to the doctrines of God) by the mercies of God**
 - I urge you by the mercies of God
 - Paul wants them to remember how merciful God has been toward them
 - **In Romans we see a number of ways in which God has been merciful toward us**
 - And they all center around Jesus... what Jesus **has** done for us, is doing for us and **will** do for us
 - These things are called: **justification, sanctification and glorification**
 - Jesus made us **right** with God; Jesus is **making us Holy** before God,
 - and Jesus **come** for us and **will** make us **like** Him one day

- **Since: God has been merciful, we ought to worship Him rightly...**
 - **Let His Mercy Sink into your Heart Today!**
 - **This is illustrated by the story Jesus told in Matt 18**
 - There was a man who owed a debt worth 20,000 years annual wages
 - He begged the king to be merciful.
 - So the King forgave his entire debt
 - The man's response is sickening...
 - ◆ His fellow servant owed him the amount of 100 days of wages
 - **Matt 18:28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'** ²⁹ **So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'** ³⁰ **He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.**
 - The rest of the story is interesting because the king through him in prison
 - Jesus telling of this story shows us the importance of forgiving those who have wronged us
 - **There is another application here:**
 - The Mercy of the King should have created mercy in His servant
 - The mercy of the king should have compelled him to live better before the King
 - He should have been beyond grateful for the master's mercy that His life was different
 - **God's mercy on us should compel us to worship and serve Him with all of our being**
 - We should have no need to be exhorted on this... no need to be urged by Paul
 - No need for me to plead with us this morning
 - So, when Paul says... I urge you by the mercies of God... We should respond with:
 - ◆ Yes... You are merciful God, I love to serve my merciful God
 - ◆ Therefore... I will worship...

❖ 3) We Are Told to Worship

- **Which is your spiritual worship**
- **Let's skip ahead a few words... so when we explain:**
 - **Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...** you will understand their **significance** in your life
 - You will see why it is so important that you understand Paul's urging that you **present your bodies**
 - In this manner... **as a living sacrifice**
 - **We are going to see that presenting our bodies to God is the practical way we are to worship**
- **What is at stake? It is Your Spiritual Worship**
 - **Your Worship is in mind here...**
 - How we worship is one of the most important questions a person can have answered
 - ◆ This is revolutionary... What does it mean to worship?
 - ◆ Am I worshipping?
 - ◆ Am I worshipping the right way, the right being
 - ◆ Am I committing idol worship?
 - ◆ So, you must see how important these particular verses are for you today...
 - **Example:**
 - **If I were to ask you: Who do you worship?**
 - Many if not all of you would say God... I worship God. I worship His Son Jesus Christ
 - If I were to ask you how... maybe there would be a pause...
 - **How do you worship Jesus...?**
 - Because saying you worship God is of almost no value...
 - Actually worshipping God is what is important...

- **Some may think of worship as...**
 - Coming to church... and singing some songs...
 - **Maybe many of them would think it is being part of a religious service**
 - Maybe a religious service where there are many rituals to be done
 - And the ministers do certain rituals before the people, or with the people
 - And maybe the people repeat or take part somehow in the rituals...
 - **This is not worship...**
 - And I have known some to leave godly Biblical teaching to go back into these ceremonies
 - Because they felt as if they were missing out on the benefits of these rituals...
 - Which, as you will see in a moment... Is not worshipping at all...
- **Paul is giving us instructions on how we are to worship...**
 - He will say we must **present our bodies, holy and acceptable to God**
 - **So, let us consider for a few minutes Paul's description of worship...**
 - So, I am saying we will consider the definition of worship...
 - **Then, we will define it practically with Paul's instructions to us**
 - So, I am saying we will look at how we are to do it... (Where rubber meets the road)
- **Worship defined: Paul shows us two things here...**
 - **1) It means service:**
 - If We were to ask the question... How do you serve God...?
 - We would be asking the same thing as: How do you worship God?
 - **What do we say about Sunday Mornings:**
 - I am going to the church service...
 - Or some of us may say, I am going to Worship
- **Now, Other versions would read:**
 - **Which is your Reasonable Service...**
 - **Your spiritual service of worship**
 - Instead of: **which is your spiritual worship**
 - They all are different ways to say what was originally written
- **Essentially what we see here is that Paul has in mind a certain type of worship...**
 - **2) Worship begins in the soul, or mind**
 - He says, **Reasonable Worship... Or Spiritual Worship...**
 - Spiritual Worship is a good translation...
 - But for many of us, we miss out on the understanding of how we are to worship...
 - **Because We may think this is unattainable... what does it mean: spiritual...**
 - ◆ And then as we define spiritual it may seem like something that is hard for us to grasp
 - ◆ For some of us spiritual things can just float around as we wonder what they are...
 - ◆ Because we fail to understand what spiritual means...
 - **Or you may think He means reasonable... like that was a reasonable thing to do...**
 - ◆ It was a good idea, or the right way to go about it...
 - ◆ Yet, He does not mean that really at all
 - **Here, All He is saying here is:**
 - You must worship God... Or serve God... (As We have established)
 - And we must do it in a way that is with the Reason... with our soul
 - Our worship is something we can think through within us/within our soul
 - ◆ **Although I do not mean it is merely intellectual... only a knowledge...**
 - Yet, It is something that is rational... we can actually grasp our worship in our minds/soul...
 - **Therefore, Our worship is to be worship led by reason...**

- **This is what He means by Spiritual Worship... shaped in our mind or soul as it were**
- Yet.. we must, as we will see, have our reason shaped by the Word of God
- As Peter instructs us:
 - ◆ **1 Peter 2:2 ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation**
- **We are to long for pure spiritual milk...**
 - ◆ This is the same word used for “reasonable” or “spiritual”
 - ◆ This is milk that nourishes the soul... that feeds the soul... it shapes the soul
- **Our Worship must be nourished through the Word of God...**
 - When we look at how we are to worship by offering up our bodies to God
 - **We will see that when God changed us... He changed our heart**
 - ◆ He placed His spirit within us.
 - ◆ Our bodies on the other hand... were not changed
 - ◆ Our minds as well, were not changed...
 - ◆ **Therefore... if we are going to worship God rightly...**
 - We will have to start shaping our minds with the Word of God
 - From there our bodies will be helped so that they can be an offering of worship
- **Clearly:**
 - **What we see, is that this worship is not outward signs of worship...**
 - It is not the lifting of the hands
 - It is not the burning of incense
 - **It starts from within the person...**
 - And then... it will move the body to **do** and to bring Glory and Honor to God
 - It is only outward in the sense that it moves us to **service/worship** of God...
 - **Jesus tells the woman at the well, who wondered where the proper place of worship was...**
 - **John 4:23-24 ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”**
 - Has the Lord found this type of worshipper in you?
 - Have you wrestled with his truth within your soul...?
 - So that you may serve Him?
- **Practically... Putting this into practice...**
 - You can not come to worship... and just sit there on auto pilot
 - You have an obligation to engage your mind... to think... to strain hard to understand
 - To ask questions of the text... write them down and bring them to the pastor
 - To take notes... It is shameful how little attention we give to the Holy Word of God
 - How are we to worship God unless we engage our reason, our souls with His Word
- **What We will see:**
 - Is that every moment of every day, of every hour, of every minute and of every second
 - Is an opportunity for Spiritual Worship
 - **As we continue looking at this text... we will learn...**
 - That when we **present our bodies as a living sacrifice, Holy and Acceptable to God...**
 - ◆ Paul is saying... this is worship... this is spiritual worship...
 - ◆ And it destroys the type of thinking that makes worship out to be merely a church service
 - ◆ Oh... I just had the greatest time at church... I worshipped God so greatly...
 - Two days later... we are no different... is that worship?
 - Is that what God desires?

- Proverbs 21:3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

- Look with me at Paul's instructions on Worship

- ❖ 4) Gives Yourselves to God: This is worship...Giving Yourselves to God

- Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God

- Questions in this text

- Present your bodies.
 - 1) What does He intend by "bodies" ?
 - 2) What does He mean by Present?
- As a living Sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God
 - 3) What does He mean by "living sacrifice"?
 - 4) What does He mean by Holy and Acceptable to God?

- First Question we need to answer is: What does He mean by our bodies?

- 1) What are we presenting? Our bodies?

- It is the physical part of the person...
- When He says our bodies, He means... Our flesh and bones...
- Not our flesh and bone and soul and spirit...
- Although... He does get to that in these verses...
- But here... He is speaking specifically about our bodies...
- Specifically: Hands and feet and mouth and tongue and sexual organs and ears and eyes

- 2) In what way does he mean that we are to present our bodies to God?

- It means: to yield or to make it available for access
- In the same way that a man would bring an animal before God
 - He would present the animal to God as a sacrifice.
- How would this man go about presenting his sacrifice?
 - Two things had to be right.
 - 1) His attitude toward God
 - 2) The offering had to be perfect
- God would even say at some points that He hated their sacrifices...
 - It was because they meant nothing... they were all outward show
 - There was no inward love toward God
 - Example from the scriptures:
 - ◆ Hosea 6:6 ⁶ For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
 - These people did not have their hearts right with God
 - They did not have their mind right toward God
 - ◆ Our first example of this was from the first brothers on the earth: Cain and Abel
 - Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable to God
 - It was not his best, and it was not what God had asked
 - Gen 4:6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?"
- Presenting ourselves to God is a conscious decision we make daily
 - We can not make ourselves perfect like the sacrifices had to be in the O.T.
 - ◆ Jesus has already done that for us...
 - So... Remembering first of all that Jesus has made us Holy in the eyes of God...
 - Then we must... Have the right attitude toward God
 - We Must Use our bodies in the right way before God

- **3) We are called to be living sacrifices...**
 - **A sacrifice:** was something offered to God so that He would forgive our sins...
 - **But** this is not what we need here
 - **Because** Jesus has already offered himself as our sacrifice...
 - **We** have no need to be a sacrifice for the purpose of covering sins...
 - **Jesus** dying for us is the mercy given to us by God...
 - **The** sense here is that we are to be like a sacrifice... as a sacrifice...
 - In that we have come to be given to God
 - A sacrifice was coming to die
 - So we too come to die... BUT
- **3) Living....**
 - **Another things to notice here is what kind of sacrifice we are to be...**
 - **We are to be living sacrifices...**
 - So Paul is not calling us to die in the sense of giving up our lives...
 - ◆ Although that may actually be the case...
 - **Here Paul says He wants us to be like a living sacrifice...**
 - ◆ We are to be living and dying at the same time...
 - ◆ **WHAT? What does He mean?**
- **3) Living Sacrifices...**
 - **Chrysostom:** "So Paul also here bids us "present our bodies a living sacrifice." And how is the body, it may be said, to become a sacrifice? Let the eye look upon no evil thing, and it hath become a sacrifice; let thy tongue speak nothing filthy, and it hath become an offering; let thine hand do no lawless deed, and it hath become a whole burnt offering. Or rather this is not enough, but we must have good works also: let the hand do alms, the mouth bless them that cross one, and the hearing find leisure evermore for lections of Scripture."
- **Can You See? We worship God with how we use our bodies day in and day out**
 - And it starts in the soul, or the mind...
 - Worship is 24 hours a day 7 days a week...
 - We must be careful to be about worshipping God at all times...
- **Practice: Learned from presenting a sacrifice to God**
 - Do we take such care at bringing ourselves before God for worship?
 - Are we thinking right things about God based off of our time in the Word
 - Are we using our the body God has given us in a way that honors God
- **3) A Living Sacrifice:**
 - **The neat thing here is that we are not necessarily called to die...**
 - We are called to be a living sacrifice...
 - I think this is an important distinction...
 - It is with our lives that we are to offer up worship to God
 - By everyday being a sacrifice to Him
 - **What does this mean practically:**
 - I think it is very clear
 - Sacrifices died, right? They were brought before God to die
 - In a similar way, we are to sacrifice in so many ways
 - We are to sacrifice our time... yes for God
 - We are to sacrifice our energy... yes for God
 - We are to sacrifice our money... yes for God
 - We are to sacrifice our name... yes for God
 - We are to sacrifice our possessions... yes for God

- We are to sacrifice our minds... yes for God

- **On and on we can go here...**

- **What have we been told about our bodies... We are not our own...**

- 1 Corinthians 6:19 You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- This is totally foreign to the non Christian here today

- But should be completely understood by the Christian

- Although they may struggle with this

➤ **4) Finally there is a way of presenting out bodies to God: Holy and Acceptable before God**

- **Now... we are only holy and acceptable before God because of what Jesus has done**

- I think Paul has made this clear.

- **But here, He seems to be putting this another sense**

- He does not think we are Holy on our own

- He does not think we can make ourselves Holy and Acceptable

- He knows that Jesus has already done that...

- So, it is with that truth that we come before God with our worship

- **Then, we are to set our soul toward worshipping God...**

- In such a way that our bodies are used in Holy and Acceptable ways...

- So, in the things we do, they should be acceptable before God

- They should be things done right, for right reasons...

- **Holy means set apart... different that the fallen world...**

- ◆ Our Actions should be holy before God

➤ **Let's illustrate this with another verse from Paul: He puts this so plainly**

- **Romans 6:13 ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.**

❖ **Worshipping God should be a natural outflow of who we are**

➤ **We must understand... 90% of the decisions we make daily are made without thinking**

- What we say and do

- How we respond to others

- Our patience and generosity and mercy and forgiving hearts...

- They are all natural indicators of what comes from within the person

- **Jesus said:**

- **Matt 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.**

➤ **Rarely do we just stop and reason through our actions...**

➤ **This is why it is so important that we understand what Paul is teaching us here...**

- He has just told us to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices

➤ **Next week we are going to learn how we can give ourselves to God in Worship...**

- This way... Our worship of God with our bodies is a natural outflow of who we really are

- We are going to learn how we can Be Transformed...

❖ **Invitation**

➤ **How is God Working on You today?**

➤ **Romans 13:11-12 ¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.**