

XLIII. The Believer's Supreme Act of Spiritual Worship

A. The Soul Submitted to God - vs 1a

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren,

a. *parakaleo* - to call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.

i. Connotes exhorting, admonishing, or encouraging - calling alongside in order to help or to give aid

ii. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the *parakletos*, our divine helper

iii. A gentle command that can only be obeyed by brethren

b. Brethren

i. what Paul was about to teach came with apostolic authority - Phi 8-9

ii. He addresses them as fellow believers, to encourage them to fulfill what God has already put in them by making them new creatures - Eze 36:25-27

iii. An unbeliever couldn't b/c they have not given themselves to God - Ro 8:7-8; 1 Co 2:14

c. Therefore refers back to the doxology in 11:33-36

i. For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

ii. The desire to glorify God only comes through the new birth

2. by the mercies of God

a. the most precious mercies, we are loved - Ro 1:7; 5:5; 8:35,39 and have received grace - Ro 1:6-7; 3:24; 5:2,20-21; 6:15

b. mercies reflected in His

i. Power of salvation - 1:16

ii. Great kindness toward us - 2:4; 11:22

iii. Forgiveness and propitiation of our sins - 3:25; 4:7-8

iv. Gift of freedom from the power of sin - 6:18; 7:6

v. Gift of reconciliation - 5:10; and Justification before Him- 2:13; 3:4; conformation to His Son - 8:29; glorification - 8:30; eternal life - 5:21; 6:22-23; resurrection of our bodies - 8:11; divine sonship - 8:14-17; the Holy Spirit dwelling in us - 8:9,11; intercedes for us - 8:26; love poured out in our hearts - 5:5;

vi. "In Christ" we have also received the mercies of *faith* - 30 times in Ro 1-11; *peace* - 1:7; 2:10; 5:1; 8:6; *hope* - 5:2,20

vii. Includes His shared righteousness - 3:21-22; 4:6,11,13; 5:17,19,21; glory - 2:10; 5:2; 8:18; 9:23; and honor - 2:10; His sovereign mercy - 9:15-16,18; 11:30-32

B. The Body Submitted to God - vs 1b

1. that you present your bodies - 1Co 6:11-13,20

a. To present - *paristemi*

- i. in LXX used of priest placing an offering on the altar
- ii. Carries the idea of surrendering or yielding up
- iii. In the imperative, carries the weight of a command
- b. To present our bodies since God already has our souls through salvation
 - i. more than just the outer shell
 - ii. Includes our unredeemed humanness (flesh/ sin in me) which is explained in Ro 6-7, so therefore includes the evil desires of our mind, emotions, and will - 1 Co 9:27; 2 Co 12:7
 - iii. b/c our bodies are unredeemed they must be continually yielded to the Lord - Ro 6:12-13

2. a living and holy sacrifice,

- a. the need for dead sacrifices ended with Christ's death - Heb 9:11-12
- b. **hagios** - sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):--(most) holy (one, thing), saint.
 - i. OT sacrifices had to be without blemish - Le 22:22; De 15:21
 - ii. clean hands and a pure heart - Ps 24:3-4
- c. acceptable to God,

3. which is your reasonable service.

- a. **logikos** - rational ("logical"):--reasonable, of the word.
- b. b/c of 11:33-36 and the mercies presented, our only reasonable conclusion is to worship God through spiritual service
 - i. **latreia** - ministration of God, worship:--(divine)
 - ii. Used to describe the OT priests worship

C. The Mind Submitted to God - vs 2a

1. And do not be conformed to this world,

- a. **suschematizo** - to fashion alike, conform to the same pattern, conform to, fashion self according to. - 1Pe 1:14
 - i. refers to outward expression, not what is within
 - ii. Used for masquerading or putting on an act by following a specific scheme
 - iii. Passive imperative - don't allow yourself to be conformed - 1 Jo 2:16
- b. world - **aion** - an age, perpetuity
 - i. The sum of demonic-human philosophies of life
 - ii. The realm of our spiritual battles

2. but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

- a. **metamorphoo** - to transform, change, transfigure, transform.
 - i. connotes a change in outward appearance
 - ii. Used of Christ when he transfigured - Mt 17:2
 - iii. Also a Passive imperative - we are to let our inner redeemed nature is to be manifested outwardly
 - iv. Although we aspire to this outward change, it can only happen through the Holy Spirit enlightening our minds with the word of God - 2 Co 3:18
- b. **anakainosis** - renovation, renewing.
 - i. our minds (heart) when enlightened by the Holy Spirit are convinced of truth

- ii. Behavior comes from the heart or what one believes - Mt 15:18;
 - if you believe lies, how will you behave? - Mk 7:21
 - if you believe truth, how will you behave? - Ps 119:11; Mt 4:4,7,10
 - the focus of Paul's ministry - Col 1:28; 3:16

D. The Will Submitted to God - vs 2b

- 1. that you may prove
 - a. a purpose/result phrase
 - b. *dokimazo* - to test, to approve:--allow, discern, examine, try.
 - c. when a believer's mind is transformed, his thinking ability and spiritual understanding give him the ability to see things from a godly perspective
- 2. what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God
 - a. *euarestos* - fully agreeable:--acceptable(-ted), wellpleasing. - Ro 14:18; 2 Co 5:9; Eph 5:10,17; Phil 4:18; Col 3:20; Tit 2:9; Heb 13:21
 - b. *teleios* - complete, completeness:--of full age, man, perfect.