

Living Sacrifices (Romans 12: 1-2)

- *...chosen by God to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God* (1 Pet 2:4-6)
- Romans: *present our bodies...* “which is our reasonable service” Rom 12:1
- On what basis can we offer our bodies to God as living sacrifices?
- *not to be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of the mind*

I. “Present Your Bodies as Living Sacrifices”

- *“I beseech you, therefore, brethren”* Paul's pleas is on the basis of ch 1-11.
- *“I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God”*
- We serve God on the basis of mercy alone – His mercy is reason enough
- *Service through Jesus Christ, the love of the Spirit:* Rom 15: 30
- *I beseech you by the mercies of God “to present your bodies as a living sacrifice*
- Word “*to present your bodies*” is used of baby Jesus at the temple (Lk 2:22)
- Bodies presented to the Lord as *servants of righteousness* (Rom 6:12-15)
- God's mercy and love are what truly enable us to serve Him (Eph 5:1,2)

II. Be Transformed by the Renewing

- The battle for our souls is very much fought in our minds
 - a. *“Do not be conformed to this world”*
- Conform: squeezed or fashioned, molded into a certain mindset
 - b. *“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”*
- Present passive imperative: Matt 17: Jesus' transfiguration
2 Cor 3:16-17; Rom 8:14-17; Titus 3:4-7; Jude 20,21