

# A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your **bodies** a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

- Time to translate doctrine into practice now
- Doctrine is practical because it affects how we think and therefore what we do
- Maybe a better way to describe this part of the book is to say that here is the application for the message. Apply this. Do this
- To understand the living sacrifice think of Isaac
  - Isaac was probably in his mid to late 30's when Abraham took him to be sacrificed
  - He carried the wood that would be used to sacrifice him
  - He asked his dad where the animal was that would be used in the sacrifice
  - He allowed himself to be put on the altar and tied up
  - He watched his dad raise the knife to kill him

- He didn't resist. He willingly gave himself to do what God wanted
- He is a picture of a living sacrifice
- He went up alive and came down alive but was willing for God's will to be done in his life no matter how painful
- Jesus is a picture of a living sacrifice
  - He too walked up the hill carrying the wood He would be sacrificed on
  - He could have stopped the sacrifice, the crucifixion whenever He wanted to but didn't
  - He willingly allowed them to take His life
  - But He didn't stay dead, He arose
  - He carried the scars and the marks of His sacrifice in His body
  - He had prayed that God would remove the cup if it be His will but willingly did what God had for Him
- We are called on to give our lives as a sacrifice too [Luke 9:23](#)  
 And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.** [24](#) For whosoever will save his life

shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

1. By the mercies of God [12:1](#) I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your **bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*
  - a. We were completely lost and without any hope  
[Romans 3:19](#) Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that **every mouth may be stopped**, and **all the world may become guilty before God.**
  - b. All of us have sinned against a Holy God leaving us without hope of life [Romans 3:10](#) As it is written, There is **none righteous, no, not one:** [11](#) There is **none** that **understandeth**, there is **none** that **seeketh** after God. [12](#) They are **all** gone **out of the way**, they are together become **unprofitable**; there is none that doeth good, no, **not one.**

- c. None of us measure up [Romans 3:23](#) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- d. Jesus loved us and died for us [Romans 5:8](#) For when we were yet **without strength**, in due time Christ died for the **ungodly**. [7](#) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. [8](#) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were **yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
- e. His love and grace are greater than any sin and failure on our part [Romans 5:20](#) Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- f. Through His salvation we are no longer condemned and never will be condemned [Romans 8:1](#) *There is* therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- g. Nothing can ever separate us from His great love and salvation [Romans 8:35](#) Who shall **separate us from the**

**love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- h. We rest in His righteousness not our own **Romans 10:3** For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness**, and going about to **establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **4** For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
- i. Our salvation and every thing is for His honor and glory **Romans 11:36** For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

2. A living sacrifice [Romans 12:1](#) I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your **bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*.
- a. It is not just about your heart but your whole being
  - b. He is talking about your very body
  - c. Your body belongs to Him [I Corinthians 6:19](#) What? know ye not that **your body** is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* [20](#) For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body**, and in **your spirit**, which are God's.
  - d. Our goal should be to use the body He gave us to honor, glorify, and magnify Him [Philippians 1:20](#) According to my earnest expectation and *my hope*, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified in my body**, whether *it be* by life, or by death. [21](#) For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.
  - e. We choose how to use our bodies, what we yield them to [Romans 6:12](#) **Let not sin** therefore reign in your mortal

body, that ye **should obey it** in the lusts thereof. 13

Neither **yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:** but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

- f. Paul worked at keeping his body in submission to God  
I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under **my body**, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
- g. I am to be concerned with living in my body in a way that is holy and acceptable to God
- h. Even my body is not about me
- i. That is what the sacrifice means

- 3. A reasonable service Romans 12:1 I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your **bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
  - a. It is reasonable because of what God has already done for us.
  - b. It is reasonable because of what God is continuing to do.

- c. It is reasonable because such service is God's will for us, and his is a good, pleasing and perfect will.
- d. It is reasonable because God is worthy of our very best efforts. [Revelation 4:11](#) **Thou art worthy**, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast **created** all things, and for **thy pleasure** they are and were created. [Revelation 5:9](#) And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy** to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou **wast slain**, and **hast redeemed us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [10](#) And hast **made us unto our God kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth. [Revelation 5:12](#) Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.
- e. It is reasonable because only spiritual things will last.