

September 11, 2011  
"Moved by God's Mercies"  
Romans 12:1

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. (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

The entirety of Paul's letter to the Romans up to chapter 12 is deep doctrinal teaching about the great mercies of God which result in our salvation. It is true; the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Yet, true and mature love and living for God is best motivated by understanding His great LOVE for us! We love Him because He first loved us!

I. Why should God's mercies be great in our esteem?

1. Because they are God-given mercies –

A. God is worthy of our honor simply because of Who and What He is –

WSC 4 What is God? A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. (WSC 1:4 WCS)

B. God is worthy as our Creator –

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NKJ)

C. God is worthy as the Sustainer of our lives –

<sup>6</sup> ... O LORD, You preserve man and beast. (Psalm 36:6 NKJ)

2. Because sinners receive them -

A. We would not retain God in our knowledge –

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (Romans 1:28 NKJ)

B. None of us sought God –

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

C. We definitely did not deserve God's many mercies –

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8 NKJ)

3. Because of how they were attained (purchased) for us – knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJ)

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, (Revelation 5:9 NKJ)

4. Because of the greatness of the mercies themselves –

A. They accomplish great things in and for us –

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)

B. They make us children of God and heirs with Christ –

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:16-17 NKJ)

II. How should we respond to these wonderful mercies?

1. By Giving our bodies as living sacrifices –

WHY?

A. Because He gave His body for us –

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19 NKJ)

B. Because He is worthy of our best love –

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.<sup>38</sup> "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

<sup>39</sup> "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10:37-39 NKJ)

## 2. *By living "HOLY" lives – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE HOLINESS*

1. True holiness is intimately tied to and totally dependent upon regeneration -

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

2. True holiness implies a hunger for Heavenly things -

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 NKJ)

3. True holiness will manifest itself in an ever-increasing liveliness about the worship and service of God -

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8 NKJ)

4. True holiness will make its mark on every aspect of a person's life - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJ)

5. True holiness is not equivalent to sinless perfection -

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9 NKJ)

6. True Holiness is dependent upon a constant, vital union with Christ one that will make us more and more like Him -

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6 NKJ)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and

it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:1-2 NKJ)

7. True holiness will make us odd-balls in this sin-filled world – "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (John 15:18 NKJ)

8. True holiness is the one thing we need –

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: (Hebrews 12:14 NKJ)

3. *By seeking to please God –*

A. *The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom –*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

B. *Yet, the motive for our service of God is His mercy / love –*

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us. (1Jo 4:19 NKJ)

C. *We gain our direction for His service from His word –*

<sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2Ti 2:15 NKJ)

4. *When we do all this we know this is our REASONABLE SERVICE –*

... which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

<sup>10</sup> "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" (Luk 17:10 NKJ)

