



Week 3

Series: Glorify God. Proclaim Christ. Make Disciples.

Sermon Title: A Living Sacrifice

Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-2

Group Week of: January 14, 2024

Sermon Date: January 21, 2024

| Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies | |
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| Day 1 | His Mercy – Romans 3:21-31 |
| Day 2 | Improper Worship – Malachi 1:6-14 |
| Day 3 | Proper Worship – 1 Cor 10:23-33 |
| Day 4 | Transformed Living – Rom 8:1-17 |
| Day 5 | Living in His Will – Ephesians 5:1-20 |

The Text: Romans 12:1-2

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) that you see Paul (the Holy Spirit) teaching to the Romans (us) through this text?
- 2) What does the “therefore” of verse 1 allude to?
- 3) How does a living sacrifice differ from the Old Testament sacrificial system?
- 4) What does it mean to “test and approve”?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Paul says that our living sacrifice of worship should be done “in view of God’s mercy.” What is the connection between mercy and worship?

- 2) It is easy to fall into the trap of trying to repay God for His mercy. Trying to repay God for His sacrifice is an insult to the gift of grace given in Jesus Christ. Instead, the best thing we can do is to take this life we’ve been given in Jesus and do our best to conduct ourselves in a way that pleases Him. In your own words, try to describe the difference between good works as a *repayment* for God’s mercy and good works as act of *worship* for His mercy.

- 3) Sacrifices were usually slain and burnt upon on altar. If we are to be living sacrifices, how does the picture of the altar inform our concept of a living sacrifice?

- 4) What is one practical thing you can do every day to put yourself into the frame of mind of being “a living sacrifice”?

- 5) When we respond to God’s grace in our lives with holy and sacrificial living, we can say that we are worshipping God truly and properly. If any of these pieces are removed, we become blemished offerings that insult God rather than please Him. With this definition, how often would you say God is being worshipped by you on a daily basis?

- 6) Describe a time in your life when you desperately sought to discern God’s will. What was going on? Why did you need to know His will? How did you go about discovering His will?

- 7) Try to put Paul’s system for discerning God’s will step-by-step into your own words. Discuss this with your group and compare it to your answer to question one.

- 8) Worshipping God and living for His glory every moment of everyday is our high calling and the right response to His majesty and mercy. Below, write down some things you can do each day to cultivate a lifestyle of personal worship.