

# Romans 12:1 – Give Yourself as a Sacrifice

Hodge, TSK, GreekLexicon, Barnes, JFB, Handfuls, Geneva, Robertson, PNT, Newell, Henry, Koning, Clarke, Poole, Gill, Family, Vincent Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: God declared all of life must be lived for the glory of Jesus. God declared that based on what he did for man, (Romans 1-11). But God didn't stop there with that broad demand. He gave details. He declared the best way for man to live for the glory of Jesus is to live a sacrificial life.

Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

The Ground of Your Sacrifice

The Nature of Your Sacrifice

Our goals are: That you will learn to totally dedicate your life to please the Lord knowing what he has done for you.

## The Ground of your Sacrifice

1 | 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.

1. Apostle Paul pleaded for Christians to live for Christ's glory based on what Christ did for them. (Chapters 1-11).

They were guilty and condemned, but God showed mercy to them through Jesus.

Jesus Christ was that free sacrifice who fully and totally died in the place of the sinner so the sinner could be re-created.

This means the sinner had done nothing to merit his remarkable and eternal salvation.

In short:

God punished Jesus for man's sins, so man received mercy. (Not punishing man as he deserved.)

God provided Jesus' works for man, so man received grace. (Giving man what he did not earn.)

2. This is why he uses the word "therefore," an inferential participle.

An inferential participle explains why - why the Christian must live for the glory of Jesus and be a sacrifice for him.

He was saved; therefore (based on that), he must serve as a sacrifice.

3. Apostle Paul said that serving as a sacrifice is a Christian's reasonable (rational) service.

Man's service to God is "rational" because of who Christ is and what he has done for him.

This is similar to a man who is trained to be a soldier, equipped to be a soldier, paid to be a soldier, who is then expected to fight as a soldier. It is the rational thing. The Greek word is "logeekos," similar to our word "logical."

4. Apostle Paul said that the man who gives himself as a living sacrifice must present a holy and acceptable sacrifice to God.

First, it was possible to be holy and acceptable to the Lord. Sin and shame did not stop man from being acceptable to God

1Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Second, to be a holy and acceptable sacrifice, man had to give up living for himself, and the more he gave up living for himself, the more useful he was to God. Moreover, man had to stop doing things he thought was best and start doing what God told him was best.

2Corinthians 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Only God determined what is good, so man had to go to God's Word to learn. Being good was not intrinsic to man.

## 5. Lessons:

a. Consider your personal mercies you have received from God: You were not punished as you ought to be. Rather, you were justified from all your sins, you are identified with Christ, not with Adam, you are under grace that will sanctify you, you have God's Holy Spirit living in you, and are secured forever and never separated from God's love, you are helped when you go through troubles, and you have confidence in God's faithfulness. You have reasons to serve God-many reasons! Your sacrifice is logical.

b. On the other hand, blind devotion, which has ignorance for its mother, is fit to be paid only to dunghill deities.

c. You should also glorify God just for who he is-God Almighty, not just because of what he did for you.

d. This further means even non-believers are obliged to glorify God and it is to their judgment if they don't. And it is your duty to see that they do. Tell non-believers about this one, true, and glorious God.

e. Only God has the right to tell you how you should be a sacrifice to him. This means you offer what he decides.

## The Nature of your Sacrifice

### 1. Let's look at a similar verse to fill in this passage first.

Romans 6:13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, **but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

### 2. Why did Apostle Paul use such a term...that **man must be a sacrifice**? Why not say, "be nice, obedient children?"

He said this to point man to Christ's work. Christ was the whole Burnt offering – that sacrifice which was given wholly to God on man's behalf. Look at how the Burnt Offering is described in Leviticus 1.

Leviticus 1:3 'If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD. 4 'Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. 5 'He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 6 'And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces. 7 'The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire. 8 'Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; 9 'but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest **shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice**, an offering made by fire, a **sweet aroma to the LORD**.

Christ, the whole burnt offering, an offering of love, was totally consumed to bring salvation to sinners.

And that was what God was calling man to be. This same message of Christ's sacrifice is taught in the New Testament.

Ephesians 5: 2 And walk in love, as **Christ also has loved us** and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God **for a sweet-smelling aroma**.

Galatians 1: 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 **who gave Himself for our sins**, that He might **deliver us from this present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father,

Hebrews 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, **He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**.

Yet Christ's offering was more! Christ did not give an impoverished animal. **He gave himself...in all his richness and greatness**. He **was so much** and **gave so much** that millions can become rich.

2Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

### 3. Why did Apostle Paul say you must not just be a sacrifice but you must be a **living sacrifice**?

You are not to present a dead legal offering as the Israelites did in the Old Testament. Jesus, your offering, came to life again. You are to be living sacrifices.

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, **we believe that we shall also live with Him**,

1Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable** to God through Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, **but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh** I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

You can say that because Christ is living in you, you are living sacrifices to God. He lives. You live.

### 4. Why did Apostle Paul say you are to present your body as a **holy sacrifice** to God.

God is the one who was offended by sin. The Levitical sacrifices, when offered without blemish to God, were regarded as holy.

Deuteronomy 15:21 "**But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.**"

Now believers, who yield themselves to God and their members as instruments of righteousness to God," are, in God's eyes, not ritually, but really "holy." You are declared righteous. He wants holy lives!!!

### 5. Why did Apostle Paul say you must present **your bodies** as a living sacrifice?

**Apostle Paul is not referring to your physical body.** He is referring to “yourself in the body,” the whole person. (A part often represents the whole, like when the airport tower says, “how many souls do you have on board?” The soul (a part of you) represents the whole person. **More, Apostle Paul was not teaching about diet and eating organic foods as some argue, though those may have benefits.**

Your lips and your limbs – your body - simply reflect what the soul desires.

Two examples:

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the **fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name.

2Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the **things done in the body**, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**So it isn't the physical “body” that is the sacrifice, but the things done in the body that is the sacrifice.**

### 6. Lessons:

**a. Christ was totally consumed in his death like the Burnt Offerings were totally consumed for you. What amazing love!**

**b. So be at Christ's disposal and do his Father's holy will all the time – sacrificing yourself to do so.**

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

You are no longer your own but you belong to your faithful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 6:20 For **you were bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God's.

**c. You must be personally involved in being a sacrifice. You may not substitute another, just as Christ did not send another to do his work (he did not even send an angel).** God's job to you is for you personally and **you may not delegate it to others.** Parents may not delegate their job of raising their children to others so they can advance their personal agendas. You may not give money to the church to remove your responsibility to share the Gospel. Everyone has that job.

**d. Let Christ make your heart holy so you can live and speak for him and be a holy acceptable sacrifice.**

### Conclusion:

You must be that holy, living sacrifice – doing sacrificial work for the Lord Jesus, based on what he has done for you. He was your all-consumed sacrifice and you must be one for him. He gave his body and soul for you and you must give your body and soul for him. This is the only rational response. You were saved, now serve.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. While it is reasonable to sacrificially serve Christ who was a sacrifice for you, yet, for serving the Lord...for being that constant living sacrifice for him, you are rewarded.** What a deal!

**2. God does not want occasional service from you.** He wants wholehearted service in your whole life-the way you behave, talk, act, dress, and treat others.

**3. Make a judgment on the way you have served the Lord.** Out of 10, where do you think you are? Where do you want to be? May God move you, by his grace, to begin to serve him fully, in body and soul.

Finally, you cannot serve God unless you know and receive his mercy. God indeed is merciful to the world in sending Christ as the Savior of the world. If you accept his offer of mercy, he will save you. Then you can truly serve him – something you are bound to do.