

## The Good Acceptable and Perfect Will of God – 8/25/24

**TEXT – Romans 12:1-2** *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. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**INTRO –**

### I. The Compelling Reason To Serve the Lord

So great had been the mercy of God, that this constituted a reason why they should present their bodies.

The particular mercy to which the apostle here refers, is that shown to those whom he was addressing. He had proved that all were by nature under sin; that they had no claim on God; and that he had showed great compassion in giving his Son to die for them in this state, and in pardoning their sins. This was a ground or reason why they should devote themselves to God.

**That ye present** - The word used here commonly denotes the action of bringing and presenting an animal or other sacrifice before an altar. It implies that the action was a free and voluntary offering.

**Present** - a technical term for offering a sacrifice

The Jewish service can be reduced to two acts if sacrifice:

**The first**, comprising the sacrifices offered before reconciliation and to obtain it (**sin and trespass-offering**);

**The second** sacrifices offered after reconciliation and serving to celebrate it (whole burnt-offering and peace-offering).

The fundamental idea of Part I. (chaps. 1-11), was that of the sacrifice for the sin of mankind. **Romans 3:25-26** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

These are the mercies of God to which Paul appeals here, and the development of which has filled the first eleven chapters.

The second kind of sacrifice, which was the symbol **of consecration after pardon** had been received (in which the victim was entirely burned and consumed), and of the communion established between Jehovah and the believer (the peace-offering, followed by a feast in the court of the temple).

**The sacrifice of expiation offered by God in the person of His Son should now find its response in the believer in the sacrifice of complete consecration and intimate communion.**

### II. Failure Starts at the Altar

True Christian service and living must begin with a personal dedication to the Lord. The Christian who fails in life is the one who has first failed at the altar, refusing to surrender completely to Christ

- **King Saul failed at the altar 1 Sa 13:8 and 1 Sa 15:10, and it cost him the kingdom.**

**The Philistines gathered in Michmash and outnumbered Saul's armies. Samuel delayed his coming and Saul took matters into his own hands and offered a sacrifice violating God's clear plan.**

#### **A. Saul offers an unauthorized sacrifice**

**1 Samuel 13:8-14** *And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. 11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; 12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 14 But **now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.***

**B. Saul fails to carry our God's command to destroy the Philistines and their possessions.**

**1 Samuel 15:10-15** *Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, 11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. 12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. 13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. 14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? 15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the*

*people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.*

**1 Samuel 15:22-23** *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

### **C. We are to serve Him by love**

The motive for dedication is love; Paul does not say, “I command you” but “**I beseech you**, because of what God has already done for you.” We do not serve Christ to receive His mercies, because we already have them. **We serve Him out of love and appreciation.**

True dedication is the presentation of body, mind, and will to God day by day. It is daily yielding the body to Him, having the mind renewed by the Word, and surrendering the will through prayer and obedience.

Every Christian is either a conformer, living for and like the world, or a transformer, daily becoming more like Christ.

As priests of God, we are to present “spiritual sacrifices” to God **1 Pe 2:5**, and the first sacrifice He wants each day is our body, mind, and will in total surrender to Him.

(The Gk. word for “transform” is the same as the one for “transfigure” in **Mat 17:2**, **2 Co 3:18** tells us that we are transformed (transfigured) as we allow the Spirit to reveal Christ through the Word of God.

**It is only when the believer is thus dedicated to God that he can know God’s will for his life.**

As priests, we are to present “spiritual sacrifices” to God **1 Peter 2:5** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

**CONCL – The first sacrifice He wants each day is our body, mind, and will in total surrender to Him.**

**God has a plan for our lives.**

**1 Peter 2:5** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

**God’s will becomes a priority** **Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*