

THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

--ROMANS 12:1-2--

INTRODUCTION:

As we begin chapter 12 this morning we move into a new section of Romans. Paul devoted the first 11 chapters of this book to doctrine, some easy to understand, some difficult. Some possibly challenged some preconceived ideas you had. My hope and prayer for each of you is that any doubts or confusion that you may have had about salvation have been cleared away. Paul used Romans 1-11 to teach us what God has given believers through His mercy and grace poured out on us through the Lord Jesus Christ. The bottom line is that Paul taught that Jew and Gentile are saved and justified by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and this is an act of God's mercy to us.

Beginning in chapter 12 and through the rest of the book is where Paul's doctrine becomes practical. Paul teaches how we are to live as redeemed children of God and how that is to bring glory to God in everything. This morning he teaches us that we are called to a life of sacrifice and surrender and that this is where a believer's worship begins.

I. SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP (Romans 12:1)

- a. In the middle of these two verses, at the end of verse 1 is this phrase, "*your _____ service of worship,*" this is the key phrase of these two verses.
- b. Instead of beginning with the first word of this chapter, let's start by pulling apart this _____ phrase "*your spiritual service of worship.*"
- c. When we worship, we are offering _____ to God, we are glorifying Him.
- d. Paul begins this chapter with "_____" which is always a reference back to what was previously written.
- e. Paul used chapters 1-11 to sum up everything that we have because of the _____ of God.

- f. Paul urges us based on these mercies of God, "... *to present your _____ a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*" (Romans 12:1b, NASB95) (Romans 11:33-36)
- g. True worship, genuine spiritual service of worship is produced by _____.

II. TRANSFORMED LIVES (Romans 12:2)

- a. How do you get to the point where you really understand the _____ of God?
- b. First, the negative, Paul writes, "*And do not be _____ to this world...*" (Romans 12:2a, NASB95)
- c. Now the positive, Paul writes, "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be _____ by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*" (Romans 12:2, NASB95) (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- d. Do you want to truly worship? Do not look towards external or physical things, instead be overwhelmed, and _____ by the mercies of God.
- e. Paul writes that this is accomplished, this transformation takes place through the _____ of your mind. (1 Corinthians 2:15)
- f. If you want this "renewing of the mind" so that you think the way that God wants you to think, then you must go to the _____ of God's thoughts. (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- g. If you want to worship the Lord truly and genuinely, then it must begin with spiritual wisdom and understanding that is found in the _____ of God and applied by the _____ of God.
- h. These last three words are not adjectives describing God's _____.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have transitioned into the practical section of the book of Romans. In chapters 1-11 Paul gave us the doctrine of

salvation, what salvation is and what it means to us who have come in faith to Jesus Christ. Paul writes that all that we have in Christ, the mercies of God that have been poured out on us should produce in our soul a desire to worship. Paul then went on to teach us what kind of worship is pleasing to God, what is acceptable to God. He said our spiritual service of worship was to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices to God. To surrender all of who we are to God, so that we might be transformed, completely changed to be like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This transformation takes place through the renewal of the mind, the Spirit of God applies the Word of God to our minds completely renovating our minds so that we have the mind of Christ, then we can know God's will for our life. As I consider what Paul has urged us to do in this passage this morning, my prayer for each of us is a prayer that Paul prayed for the Colossian believers in Colossians 1:9-12, *"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light."* (Colossians 1:9–12, NASB95) God desires our genuine worship brought on by the staggering mercies of God that we have experienced in our salvation and come to understand and be overwhelmed through spiritual wisdom and understanding. Are you willing to surrender your body as a living and holy sacrifice that is utterly pleasing to God? I cannot begin to tell you how sweet that is, often this is something that must be done again and again because living sacrifices have the tendency to crawl down off of the altar. If you have not been to the altar in a while or ever, go and you will never regret it. As I studied this week and wrote and rewrote this message I was reminded that I too need to make sure that I am totally abandoned to God, that I am the living and holy sacrifice that is pleasing to Him. I desire my life to be my spiritual service of worship, what about you?