

ROMANS

Chapter 12

The Appropriate Response to Divine Mercy

Where we've been and where we're going

The
subject of
Romans –
1:16-17

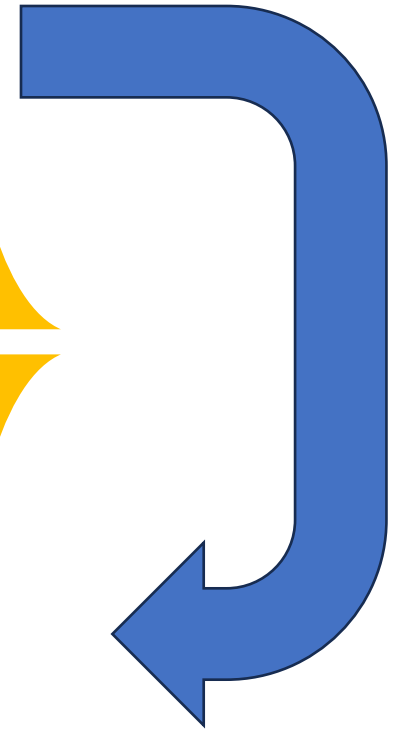
A World Under
Sin and
Condemnation
1:18-3:20

The Way of
Salvation
3:21-4:25

The
Christian
Way of Life
12:1-15:13

Justification of
Faith and the
Hope of Israel
9:1-11:36

The Grace
in Which
We Stand
5:1-8:39



A Living Sacrifice

- “Therefore”
 - This final section is a conclusion of what we’ve seen in the last 11 chapters.
 - It explains the impact the gospel should have on a Christian
 - It explains HOW we should live once we understand how the “mercies of God” have been revealed to us.
 - Chapter 12:1-2 define the Christian life in a nutshell

A Living sacrifice

- Paul is urging Christians to understand how merciful God is and just exactly what He has done for us in Christ – and to respond to His gift willingly. He wants to win our hearts
- Paul is urging us to present the members of our bodies (Rom 6:12-13,19) as a living sacrifice (having died to sin) on the “alter”

A Living Sacrifice

- Four Characteristics of this sacrifice
 - 1) Living
 - Dead to sin then arisen in Christ – a new life
 - 2) Holy
 - Consecrated or set apart for God – an “unblemished lamb”
 - 3) Acceptable to God
 - A sweet savor to God – Eph 5:2 – something He finds good
 - 4) Your Spiritual Service
 - Offering yourself is worship (John 16:2, Rom 9:4, Heb 9:1,6)

The transformation required for this worship

- “And”
 - This also must be accomplished
 - Renewing – changing of the mind
 - Change that proves the will of God
 - Presenting our bodies as a sacrifice means to use our bodies to do God’s will – letting Him use our bodies for His purposes
 - This use will not happen if we let the world shape us therefore we must be transformed letting the will of God shape us and change how we think.

What does this transformation look like?

Wordly behavior

- 1 Cor 7:31
 - Form of this world
 - Eph 2:2
 - Disobedience
 - 1 John 2:17
 - Lustful
 - Gal 1:4 - Evil
 - 1 John 5:19
 - Controlled by Satan

Godly behavior

- Changing our minds away from the world
 - Romans 8:5-6 -Life/Peace
- Transforming ourselves into His glory
 - 2 Cor 3:18 – Glory of God
- Our aim is Godly living
 - 1 Peter 4:1-11

Sober Thinking Consistent with God's Grace

- “For”
 - An explanation for the urging to be transformed
- “through the grace given me”
 - Paul encourages us to act within our sphere just as he worked towards the purpose set before himself
- “to everyone among you”
 - We ALL – every single Christian – need to be exhorted to this transformation

Sober Thinking Consistent with God's Grace

- “not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think”
 - Gr – *hyperphroneo* – high mindedness, haughty
 - Not necessarily of oneself but thinking above what one must think – explained by what follows
- “think so as to have sound judgement”
 - Gr – *sophroneo* - Right-minded – Mark 5:15, Luke 8:35, 2 Cor 5:13,14

Standard for judging sober thinking

- “measure of faith”
 - Must be understood in context with 4-8
 - **Not the amount of faith** , but the *measure, sphere, or range* which God has assigned to the *faith of each member* – 2 Cor 10:12-16, Eph 4:7,13,16
- Summary
 - 1) Many members of one body in Christ
 - 2) Individually the members belong to each other
 - 3) Each has different gifts
 - 4) All are a matter of grace – *given to us* **NOT** achieved by us

Parts of the body

- Many *parts* in **one body**
 - One body in Christ
 - Through baptism we are in Him
 - Parts of one another
 - ***Out of Him*** is diversity and isolation
 - ***In Him*** is union, togetherness, unity
 - We all benefit from **gifts** we do not personally possess
 - Gifts in varying form and degree given according to grace – vs 6-8 – all parts of one body thinking soberly

Gifts Illustrated

- Prophecy
 - To declare a message received by direct revelation from God
 - In proportion to one's faith – our measure or sphere
- Service
 - Set apart from prophecy, teaching and exhorting
 - Indicates action rather than word
- Teaching
 - No direct revelation from God – expounding upon the revelation of others

Gifts Illustrated

- Exhortation
 - One who can stir up the hearts of others – encouragement
- Giving
 - Supplying the needs of others – without hidden motive
- Leadership
 - Being out in front – elders – zeal, earnestness, not waiting around, not simply responding. Acting rather than reacting
- Mercy
 - Pity, compassion to the miserable – not grudgingly but happy

To summarize so far...

We Must

- Offer our bodies a living sacrifice
- Seek to do the will of God by renewing our minds
- Use sober judgement in accord with the measure or sphere which belongs to our faith given us by God

We Must Not

- Be conformed to this world
- Seek to put our own will ahead of God
- Think too highly of ourselves or assume God gives everyone the same gifts or sphere of faith

Next Week

- Romans 12:9-21
 - The Surrendered Life – We must serve the will of God and not our own will.
 - Dean Crews leading the discussion