

no longer care about our lives but trust Him so completely that regardless of what comes;

Romans 8:28

“we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

And that He loves us so completely, that we are convinced with the Apostle Paul,

Romans 8:38-39

“that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

Blanks: doctrine, practice, to come along side, mind, soul, body, temple, recipient, thanksgiving, worship, mind

Questions:

1. What does it mean to offer yourself as a living sacrifice?
2. What does that look like in our lives?
3. Would others characterize you as follower of Christ?
4. How do you prepare yourself to practice this daily to die to self?



Date: October 10, 2021

Text: Romans 12:1-2

Title: Sacrificial Living or Living Sacrifice

INTRODUCTION

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed 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.

A. The Exhortation

Paul begins this passage with the word **“Therefore”** indicating that what he is going to say next is tied to what he has said in the previous passage.

It is the hinge pin upon which the door opens from _____ to _____

In the first 11 Chapters, Paul has carefully and systematically laid the doctrinal foundation for the Christian life.

Then in chapters 12-15, Paul spells out the ways our faith and doctrine should be demonstrated in our daily lives.

1. *The Nature of the Exhortation*

Paul begins the exhortation by saying, “Therefore, I urge you brethren...”

“*brethren*” is an indication that his audience is believers.

Paul uses the word (*parakaleo*) that literally means
“_____.”

Although Paul was an Apostle and commanded the authority as such, He spoke:

As a brother in Christ, /As a helper or encourager

Philemon 8-9

“Though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do that which is proper, yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you”

2. *The Basis of the Exhortation*

The basis of this is exhortation is “By the mercies of God”

And notice that “mercies” is used in the plural. This probably denotes the abundance of the mercies of God, as expressed in

- the forgiveness of sin,

Col. 3:16

“let the word of Christ richly dwell within [us], with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in [our] hearts to God

We are transformed by the renewing of our mind through the Word of God. It is a constant intake of this that allows us to resist the conformity to this present age.

3. *The Results*

“so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The Greek construction makes “that you may prove” a purpose/result phrase.

A transformed mind produces a transformed will, by which we become eager and able, with the Spirit’s help, to lay aside our own plans and to trustingly accept God’s, no matter what the cost.

Conclusion

“Are we presenting our bodies (mind and will) as a living sacrifice to our heavenly Father or are we like the Christian businessmen who living sacrificially?”

When we become a living sacrifice, our lives become an offering of thanksgiving and praise and bears the testimony of His mercy, of His goodness and of His faithfulness. And it is at that moment that we

1. The Don'ts

“And do not be conformed to this world,”

It is in the _____ that our new nature and our old sinful self are intermixed.

“Be conformed” – Grk “suschematizō,” – putting on an outward expression that does not reflect the inner person.

“World” – Grk “age” referring to the current sinful world philosophy.

Question: Have we laid our Christian lifestyle on the altar as a sacrifice to the philosophy of this age, to the god of this world?

2. The Do's

“but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”

If we are going to be able to avoid being conformed to the philosophy of this age, then we must be transformed to reflect our inner self, the one that has been redeemed.

How are we transformed?

Psalms 119:11

“Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee”

Col. 1:28

“admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ”.

- the granting of peace & sonship,
- sanctification,
- union with Christ,
- life in the Spirit,
- and the hope of glorification.

But the greatest act of mercy shown by God was the suffering and death of God's Son on the cross!

3. The Subject of the Exhortation

“to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

“present”

Now “present” here is a temple term. It communicates the idea of taking an offering to the temple and presenting it as an offering to God.

“your bodies”

The truth is, when Paul speaks of the body, he is making reference to the _____, the _____ and the _____. There is no separation. It is the part where our humanity resides and the point where we constantly battle against our sinful desires.

Why is this important to God?

1 Cor. 6:18-20 – Our bodies are the _____ of the Holy Spirit

We are commanded to use our bodies as instruments of righteousness in

Romans 6:12-13:

Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Paul acknowledges that this is a struggle when he says in

Romans 7:22-24

For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

It is for this reason that we yearn for the time where we will receive our glorified bodies.

Romans 8:19-23

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

However, until that day, He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live a life that is Sanctified.

“living and holy sacrifice”

It is clear that is not what Paul has in mind here. Here he has in mind a lifestyle that is set apart or holy. Present your bodies a *living sacrifice*. It is your *living* that is the act of worship.

Question: When is the last time that someone outside of East Pointe Bible Church has acknowledged that we were a Christian? Why?

Our lives and our words should be so unique that others have no doubt that we are the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

“acceptable to God”,

God is the _____ of the living and holy sacrifice.

“which is your spiritual service of worship.”

This identifies what type of sacrifice this is. It is a sacrifice of _____ and _____.

B. The Execution