

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD

ROM 12

Text:

Introduction:

Man's chief end is to glorify God. God has revealed His glory to men and men are to respond to that glory and men are to respond by giving glory, majesty, dominion, and power unto a glorious God.

All created things were brought into existence in order that they should glorify God.

Some of the ways that we glorify God is by our fellowship and worship of God.

Knowing this it brings us to a question. How are we to do this living in this world?

The child of God faces a number of difficulties on his journey from earth to Heaven.

The first is sin itself. The Christian is beset on every hand by temptations which entice him away from the path of conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second great difficulty comes in the area of doubtful things, things that in themselves are not sinful but which may be put to sinful use or sinful ends.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The third area of difficulty is in the area of worldliness. It is this problem that we will consider this morning. Keep in mind when this world was created it was created as an instrument through which God would show His glory to man. With the rebellion of Adam against the authority of God, this world has been used by Satan to serve his purpose, to promote his plan, and to further his rebellion against God.

Our problem then is how a child of God can live in this world without promoting the program and purposes of Satan the evil one.

I'm thankful that every Christian has a home in Heaven. I'm excited that when we leave this world that we will be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, right now we are pilgrims and strangers living on foreign soil.

Heaven is a blessing, but each Christian needs help each day to walk with God.

Our text gives us some insight into an area of our walk with God that we must never overlook. These verses tell us the secret of living the life that pleases God. They tell us what God expects from us and how we are to achieve His goal for our lives.

He tells us that this life that is pleasing to Him revolves around our surrender to three powerful areas. Let's see just what they are and what the demand as we consider this thought "The Christian and the World."

1. The Worship Of God (vs 1)

Romans 12:1

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.

Notice the wording of verse one. Paul tells us that yielding of our bodies to the Lord is our "***reasonable service.***" The word "***reasonable***" comes from the same word from which we get our word "***logic***". So, first we see that yielding our bodies to the Lord is logical. Then, the word "***service***" comes from a word which means "***to perform sacred service.***" It has reference to the function the Levites performed in the Tabernacle and Temple. It is connected to the idea of worship. Therefore, that phrase means that yielding our bodies to the Lord is our "logical service of worship before the Lord." In other words, when we are totally yielded to Him, it is the highest form of worship that we can render! Nothing says "***I love you***" to the Lord like a consecrated, dedicated, holy life, **John 14:15; 21.**

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:21

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

A. The Challenge - present your bodies

1. This deals with our flesh

The word present means too place at ones disposal

B. The Cause - therefore by the mercies of God

Some may ask why that God has a right to complete surrender to Him. It is because of His mercy he died o the cross to purchase our redemption.

C. The Consecration - a living sacrifice

1. A living sacrifice means that we are to be on the altar wherever we are.

Regardless of the geographical surroundings, we are to remember that this body and all it is belongs to God. There is never an instant in life when we are out of His view or free to live as we please.

2. A living sacrifice means a constant, continuous sacrifice.

This is not something we do from time to time. But we are to offer this body up to the Lord and never ask for it back again!

3. A living sacrifice means that the body sacrifices its own desires for those of God.

To be a living sacrifice will require that the body does not live for the world, the flesh or the devil, but that everything the body does is held to the guidelines of the Word of God.

4. A living sacrifice means that the body is devoted to the task of serving God.

This means that we are to lay down the ambitions and desires of the body and commit ourselves to doing nothing but that which God bids us to do! We are to be His vessels through which He can live and work in this world.

D. The Conditions

Paul gives us two conditions that this sacrifice must meet.

1. Sanctified Sacrifice - the word holy means set apart.

It has reference to that which inspires religious awe in the sight of an observer. Imagine how awe inspiring it would have been to have stood with Elijah on Mount Carmel as God sent the fire down from Heaven on that altar. What would it have been like to have stood beside Moses as he conversed with that burning bush? Imagine how it would have felt to have been with Solomon at the dedication of the Temple when the fire of God fell. Those were holy times. They inspire awe in those who witnessed them.

2. Satisfactory sacrifice - the word acceptable means well pleasing.

God is pleased when a life is sacrificed on the altar of His service for His glory. It honors Him like nothing else can. It proves His power. It shows His glory. It tells a lost world that God makes a difference in the lives He touches by His power.

2. The Wisdom Of God (vs 2a)

Romans 12:2

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.

A. Shunning the Mold - be not conformed to this world.

The word conformed means to fashion or shape. It literally means to mold. We see the contrast of this in Gal 5:17-24

Galatians 5:17-24

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. [18] But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. [19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

B. Shunning the Mind - transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The word transformed gave us our English word metamorphosis. It describes the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

That is the change God wants to effect in each of His children! You see, He moved into our hearts when He saved us. He transformed our spirit and changed us into His child. Now, He wants to transform the mind (the soulish part of man) so that the flesh might be changed.

How is this accomplished? By surrendering the will to God. By filling the mind with the Word of God. By ordering one's life after the teachings and commands of God. By cutting oneself off from the influences of the

world and by allowing the Spirit of God to control the mind.

3. The Will Of God (vs 2b)

Romans 12:2

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.

Having told us that the secret to a holy life revolves around worshiping God through the sacrifice of our body and through developing the mind of Christ in each of us, Paul moves on to tell us that accomplishing these two things in our lives will enable us to carry out God's will for our lives in a way that honors Him. As we yield our bodies and our minds to Him, His will becomes more clear and more important to us.

A. A Description of God's Will

1. It is precious

Regardless of what the Lord may ask us to do, we will find in the end that it is good. It is the devil and the flesh who tell us that the Lord's ideas will bring hurt and problems. However, God will never ask us to do anything that is not for our eternal good.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

2 Cor. 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Genesis 50:20

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

2. It is pleasant

Pleasant in the sense that when His will is revealed to us, it is something that we are made willing to do. As we move through this life, God is in the business of maturing us. As we grow, His demands on our life change. Through the experiences of life God grows us and matures us so that when His call comes and His will is revealed, we are equipped and ready for whatever He calls us to do. If His will seems unacceptable, then we are overlooking something that He is trying to show us! He will never lead us to a place we are not ready to go!

3. It is perfect

Nothing we could add to God's plan would improve it. When He reveals His will to us, we need to realize that God sees the end of the matter before the matter begins. He knows the path we will take and He knows the obstacles and valleys we will pass through as we go. He knows where the provisions are that He has already placed along the way. His plan cannot be improved upon, but it must be followed for their to be victory and

blessing! We can be in no better place than the perfect will of God for our lives!

B. The Demonstration of God's Will

By yielding our bodies and our minds to God, we will be able to "*prove*" or "*live out*" God's will before a world that is looking. When the world sees you and me living lives that are spiritual, they will know that we have been transformed by the power of the Gospel of grace. As a result of our getting where the Lord can bless and use our lives, souls will be saved, and God will be honored.

We will be proof positive to a doubting world that God can take the worst and make the best out of it.

Close:

So the secret of living a life that is pleasing to God is allowing God control of our minds, our bodies and our will.

Is God in absolute control of all you have and are?

First, are you sure you are saved?

Second, is your mind being renewed by the transforming power of the Word of God so that the new man on the inside is being permitted to live on the outside?

Third, have you discovered and surrendered to the will of God for your life?

Will you surrender all to Him?

Will you get serious about this thing of serving the Lord?

Will you allow the Lord to transform you and your life into that which He desires?

Let's obey Him today!