

THE SECRET OF HOLY LIVING

ROMANS 12:1-21

Text:

Introduction:

The first eleven chapters give strong reasons as to why we should present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto God. The first eleven chapters deal with the doctrinal portion of the Book and beginning with the twelfth chapter we should notice the duty or the practical portion of this Book.

If we are going to live in a way that is holy we must be willing to be a living sacrifice

1. A LIVING SACRIFICE IS A PRESENTED SACRIFICE (VS. 1)

Romans 12:1

¹I 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.

A. Notice the Difference – It's a living sacrifice

In the Old Testament economy, the priests would only offer that which was dead and the offering would lie in stillness on the altar.

B. Notice the Description – It's a holy sacrifice

The word holy should not be a frightening word to us who are Christians. This means that we should offer ourselves without blemish or defect. There are so many things that can blemish us or bring spiritual defects into our lives. We should live our lives separated from the world in such a way as to make a difference.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

C. Notice the Delight – It's an acceptable sacrifice

How does the Lord measure you? Can He delight in the way that you offer yourself to Him? Can He see the sacrifice that is being made by you back to Him? The important thing is not how you are accepted by others, but How are you accepted by Him. Each Old Testament

offering had to meet His Holy requirements before they were accepted.

2. A LIVING SACRIFICE IS A PROVEN SACRIFICE (VS. 2)

Romans 12:2

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. It is Good – That speaks of its credibility

Does the sacrifice of oneself measure up after having been put to the test?

I was reading yesterday about a deck that fell at one of the local colleges here. The reason it fell was determined to be a faulty bolt.

Such a small defect can cause such great problems. We need to be proven good according to the will of God, because at the judgment seat, we will be liable for the damage done.

B. It is Acceptable – That speaks of its respectability

Genesis 4:4

⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of

the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Just as the Lord had respect for the offering that Abel made, He did not respect Cain's offering. This should teach us the principle of respect as it applies to offerings. The word respect as it is used here simply means that the Lord regarded or accepted Abel's offering. To find and have God's respect is a serious thing. I fear that we do not rightly regard what is really important to God.

C. It is Perfect – That speaks of maturity

To be perfect as it applies to our Text is to be free from defect and defilement. It means to be free from stain or injury. It speaks of not being stunted by sin, thus reaching Spiritual maturity.

The word perfect is used in our Text as it relates to the will of God. God wants us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice according to the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. These words which describe the will of God, also describes the sacrifice that is offered according to His will...

Titus 1:15-16

¹⁵ Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. ¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

3. A LIVING SACRIFICE IS A PRACTICAL SACRIFICE (VS. 3-21)

A. Actions as a Good Church Member

1. The guarantee

Romans 12:3-5

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

The Lord gives everyone something, but He also gives to everyone differently. The way that verse number three is constructed is to warn against the terrible wicked sin of pride. Pride can so dominate a person's spirit that he cannot at all please God. One must realize that whatever blessing or gift that he possesses, he received it from the Lord.

Each person is given something differently according to God's sovereign grace and purpose. The rewards come back to the believer according to the way that faith is exercised as one serves the Lord. The guarantee from this verse is that you do receive something.

2. The gifts

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

B. Actions as a Good Citizen (vs. 9-21)

1. Attitude toward others (vs. 9-10)

Romans 12:9-10

⁹ *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

To have the proper attitude is to have the mind of Christ as the letter to the Church at Philippi teaches us.

Philippians 2:5

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2. Actions toward others (11-21)

Beginning in verse number 11 and until the end of the chapter there are a list of imperatives or commands on the way that Christians are to conduct themselves as they present their bodies as living sacrifices.

1. Don't be slothful in business
2. Be fervent in spirit
3. Serve the Lord
4. Rejoice in hope
5. Be patient in tribulation
6. Continuing instant in prayer
7. Distributing to the necessity of the saints
8. Given to hospitality
9. Bless them that persecute you and curse not
10. Rejoice with them that do rejoice
11. Weep with them that weep
12. Be of the same mind one to another
13. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate
14. Be not wise in your own conceits
15. Recompense to no man evil for evil

16. Provide things honest in the sight of all men

17. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you live
peaceably with all men

18. Avenge not yourselves

19. Give place unto wrath

20. If thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirst give
him drink

21. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with
good