

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 1

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we have come to chapter 12 that begins the Doctrine of Consecration. The word "consecrated" means to be set apart as sacred or fully dedicated to God for His service. The Doctrine of Consecration will teach us how we are to live based upon the doctrines which we have studied in the previous chapters. This part of the letter that we have come to takes us from the chapters of theology to the chapters of practical living.

I. The Introduction to Christian Service

Part 1

Romans 12:1-8

A. The Challenge

Notice Romans 12:1

In this verse Paul "beseeches" the believers to present their bodies as living sacrifices by the mercies of God. He makes this request based upon all he has taught us in the first eleven chapters for it was in those chapters that we were able to see the mercies of God. He bases this request upon how we were once enemies of God, how we once were set completely against the will of God, and how God chose to love us and to save us. He has taught us how God has imputed His righteousness to our account as He removed our sins from our account. He taught us how God has empowered us in Christ so that we can live the victorious life in Christ. He taught us about the security we have in Jesus Christ as believers.

Romans 8:31-35, 38-39

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So, we have went from being enemies of God to be the children of royalty. This is all because of what Jesus did for us. None of these changes came about because of our power but it is because of what God has done for us based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

With all of this in mind and much more from the previous chapters, God now "beseeches" us to be consecrated to Him completely. He does not command us, and He does not force us. He wants our consecration to be something we willingly do based upon what He has done for us. He desires that we express our love for God by willingly living our lives for Him.

Notice the words of John Phillips:

"The challenge has to do with the believer's body, which Paul now reveals to be the ultimate key to the practice of the victorious Christian life. It is of little avail to know theoretically the truths of Romans 6-8 if the body is not surrendered so that the life of Christ can be expressed in the everyday affairs of life...God does not compel and coerce the believer into presenting his body. He does not corral him and bridle him like a horse and force him to obey. He beseeches him. He wants an unbridled sacrifice. He makes it clear that to present the body to God is, for the believer, the proper thing to do."

Notice Romans 12:1 again.

God, through Paul's pen, beseeches us to present our bodies to Him. This means that He desires ALL of us. If a man is going to present his body for the service of another, we can be sure it would be ALL of the man. This is what God desires from us. He wants us to be completely surrendered over to Him, to give to Him every area of our lives. He takes this thought even further by beseeching us to present our bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES. This is in contrast to all the dead sacrifices offered in the Old Testament. We have been made alive and so we are to be living sacrifices. This means that if we are going to live for Him as He desires there are going to be sacrifices that we must make. Our will must be sacrificed. Sometimes our dreams and our desires must be sacrificed. At other times our plans must be sacrificed. When we live consecrated lives, it is going to be costly in the

sense that we are going to need to make sacrifices in order to go where God wants us to go and to do what God wants us to do.

God wants all of us. Picture yourself as a vessel that God desires to fill. The vessel cannot be filled if it is not given completely. God cannot fill what He does not have. He wants to fill us completely with His fulness so that our lives will magnify our Lord.

Ephesians 3:19

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

To be filled with all the fulness of God means to be given over and controlled by Him.

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Notice the words of Miles Stanford on Romans 12:1.

*"Consecration is based upon reckoning (a definite act of accepting as certain, of counting in this case Romans 1-11 as true). We turn from the old man by **counting ourselves** to have died unto sin and self. We turn to our position in the risen Lord by **counting ourselves** as new creations alive unto God in Christ Jesus. Abide above!... When we yield to sin and the old life, the result is unrighteousness; when we yield our "alive-from-the-dead" life unto God, there is righteousness... To **present** our bodies is to **yield** our faculties, our new life in Christ. "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead [new creation], and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God". Life-out-of-death reckoning results in our becoming a "living sacrifice." Such a one is always delivered unto death—but, out of that daily death, new life is constantly manifested."*

Notice Romans 12:1 again.

We MUST notice that our sacrifice is to be HOLY. This means that we must be separated from that which contaminates. This is referring to our responsibility of practicing sanctification. We are being sanctified by God each and every day and in this process, we are to do our part by separating from sin. This is the only way that our sacrifice will be accepted by God. In the Old Testament the sacrifices were to be without blemish. The point to be seen here is that when we present our bodies as living sacrifices sin must be forsaken, for if it is not then our offering is not acceptable to God.

Paul ends verse 1 with a phrase that is to make us stop and think. He tells his readers that to present our body as a living sacrifice is our reasonable service. In other words, considering all that God has done for us, it is only reasonable that we would be willing to

give ourselves completely to Him since Jesus gave Himself completely for us. The word "service" could also be translated "worship". The idea then is that the greatest worship that we can offer to God is to give of our complete selves as holy sacrifices unto Him.

Romans 12:1 can be summed up in what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

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.

B. The Change

Notice Romans 12:2

As we come to this verse, I want to define a few words for you and then we shall get to the meaning of what Paul is writing. We need to first define the word "WORLD". Let me show you how R. C. Trench defines this word:

"All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, impulses, aims, and aspirations at any time current in the world."

The "world" can be defined as that which is against God. It is the movement today that we are seeing which is striving to bring about a global economy and that is striving to promote evil and division. It is the philosophy that says abortion is a woman's right and that same sex marriage is acceptable.

The world as referred to here in this verse is influenced by Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephesians 2:1-2

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Notice Romans 12:2 again.

We are NOT to be "conformed" to this world. The word "conformed" means "to fashion in accordance with, or to shape one thing like another". In other words, we are not to be persuaded by the world's philosophies and the world's teachings.

It is so important that we grow in our faith and that we seek the mighty power of God for our inner man so that we can discern Truth from error.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I see many people today who do not exercise their brains to think and to ask questions. As believers we MUST stay spiritually alert. Let me show you something that Jesus said concerning the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:10-11, 24

¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

In the Tribulation there will be great deception and it is very possible that this deception has started in our day today. There are so many lies told today that it is difficult to know what to believe. But as we walk close to the Lord, God gives to us discernment to separate Truth from error.

Getting back to the verse again we are not to be influenced by the philosophies and the teachings of the world.

Notice Romans 12:2 again.

We are to be "transformed" by the renewing of our mind. The word "transformed" is the very word we get the word "**metamorphosis**" from. Metamorphosis is what happens to the caterpillar worm when he is transformed into a butterfly.

The idea for us here is that we are not to conform to the pressures of the world, but we are to change from the inside out. It's a mental process described by Vine as "the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life." The believer's mind needs to be saturated with the Word of God so that we might more and more see, think and feel as God does.

Colossians 3:9-10

⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

The more our minds are exposed to the Word the more Jesus will be seen in us. I want to end tonight with a story from the Daily Bread printed years ago.

"Several years ago, I read an article about Queen Mary, who made it her practice to visit Scotland every year. She was so loved by the people there that she often mingled with them freely without a protective escort. One afternoon while walking with some children, she went out farther than she'd planned. Dark clouds came up unexpectedly, so she stopped at a nearby house to borrow an umbrella. "If you will lend me one," she said to the lady who answered the door, "I will send it back to you tomorrow." The woman didn't recognize the Queen and was reluctant to give this stranger her best umbrella. So, she handed her one that she intended to throw away. The fabric was torn in several places and one of the ribs was broken. The next day another knock was heard at the door. When the lady opened it, she was greeted by a royal guard, who was holding in his hand her old, tattered umbrella. "The Queen sent me," he said. "She asked me to thank you for loaning her this." For a moment the woman was stunned, then, she burst into tears. "Oh, what an opportunity I missed," she cried. "I didn't give the Queen my very best!"

Are you presenting God "tattered umbrellas" or your best?