

**"The Doctrine of Consecration"**

**Part 3**

**Romans 12:1-15:7**

**Introduction:** In our study of Romans we have spent the past two studies looking at Romans 12:1-2. It is in these two verses that Paul is beseeching his readers, based upon the mercies of God, to present our bodies as living sacrifices. There is something that we touched upon in verse 1 that we need to see again in order to understand what we are about to consider this evening.

**Notice Romans 12:1**

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.

Let us now get back to our outline.

**I. The Introduction to Christian Service**

**Part 3**

**Romans 12:1-8**

**A. The Challenge**

**Notice Romans 12:1**

**B. The Change**

**Notice Romans 12:2**

- **Discovering the Will of God.**
  - 1. It is good.**
  - 2. It is acceptable.**
  - 3. It is perfect.**

Verses 1-2 therefore deal with the believer's worship as he or she presents themselves as a living sacrifice to God, separated from the world, with a mind that has been transformed, and walking in the will of God.

Now Paul is going to move on to the subject of SERVICE when we get into verse 4 but before he talks about SERVICE, he deals with something that is vitally important if our

service is going to be effective for God. In Romans 12:3 Paul will address the subject ATTITUDE.

**C. Proper Attitude**

**Notice Romans 12:3**

If we are going to manifest Jesus Christ to the world around us, then we must be humble.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

<sup>6</sup> *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

<sup>7</sup> *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

<sup>8</sup> *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Getting back to our verse we are not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Pride and arrogance have no place in the body of Jesus Christ. If we are given as living sacrifices and God chooses to use us, then we must understand that He is to get all the glory. We must keep in mind that if there is anything good or spiritually productive that comes from our lives it is because of God working in and through us.

**Romans 7:18a**

<sup>18</sup> *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:*

We have spiritual gifts which are given to us from the Lord and as we exercise our gifts and we see results we must be sure to keep in mind it is all because of God's power and grace.

**1 Corinthians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

Let us keep in mind what we studied in the doxology of Romans 11.

**Romans 11:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

<sup>34</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

<sup>35</sup> Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

<sup>36</sup> For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

All we have is from God and it is all for His glory. We must also keep in mind that it is dangerous to steal God's glory away from Him.

### Isaiah 42:5-8

<sup>5</sup> Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

<sup>6</sup> I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

<sup>7</sup> To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

### Isaiah 48:10-11

<sup>10</sup> Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

<sup>11</sup> For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Now let us notice what happened to Herod in the book of Acts.

### Acts 12:21-23

<sup>21</sup> And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

<sup>22</sup> And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

<sup>23</sup> And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**Notice Romans 12:3 again and Romans 12:6.**

Our opinion of ourselves should be based upon the "measure of faith" that has been dealt to us by God or the "proportion of faith" as mentioned in verse 6. Paul is not talking about saving faith here. He has in mind spiritual gifts that are given to believers and the proportion/measure of faith that is given by God which enables us to put the gifts into practice. When God gives to us our spiritual gifts at the moment of salvation, He also gives to us the grace and faith to put the gift into practice.

**Ephesians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

So, whatever our gifts are they are to be exercised with a humble spirit always remembering that God gave us the gift and the grace and faith to put the gift into practice. Whatever good comes from our exercise of the gifts is all for God's glory and we must be sure to give Him the glory. We must NEVER allow ourselves to think that we are better than someone else or that we are somehow doing something that no one else can do. Let us notice a poem that really puts it all into the proper perspective.

*Sometime when you're feeling important, sometime when your ego's way up;*

*Sometime when you take it for granted that you are the prize winning "pup";*

*Sometime when you feel that your absence would leave an unfillable hole,*

*Just follow these simple instructions, and see how it humbles your soul.*

*Take a bucket and fill it with water, put your hand in it up to your wrist.*

*Now pull it out fast and the hole that remains is the measure of how you'll be missed.*

*You may splash all you please as you enter, and stir up the water galore,*

*But STOP and you'll find in a minute, it's back where it was before.*

**Notice Romans 12:3 again.**

There is one more point I want you to see here. Let us notice that we are told twice that EVERY MAN has been dealt/dealt out at least one gift and the faith to go with the gift. You and I do not need to pray and seek for a gift, we already have it. Our responsibility is to develop and exercise our gifts. This is done by walking in fellowship with our Lord, giving ourselves as living sacrifices, and living separated from the world.

**Notice Romans 12:4-5**

Here in verse 4 Paul refers to the human body. The human body has many members and each and every member is important. It is the very same way in the body of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:11-25**

*11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

*12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

*13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

*14 For the body is not one member, but many.*

*15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

*16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

*17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?*

*18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

*19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?*

*20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.*

*21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

*22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*

*23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*

*<sup>24</sup> For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.*

*<sup>25</sup> That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

The "UNCOMELY" parts of the human body would be the internal organs. They are not seen yet they are very important. Parts such as the heart, lungs, liver, and stomach. We need these in order to survive. This is the very same idea with the body of Jesus Christ. There are those who are often in the front who are seen but there are those who serve behind the scenes and like the vital organs of the human body so are those members in the church, they are needed.

**Conclusion:**

Next week we are going to look closely at the list of spiritual gifts that Paul list here. As we close tonight, I want to remind you that you need to be exercising your spiritual gifts for two main reasons.

1. **The body of Jesus Christ is hindered when you don't.**
2. **You will be held accountable one day for how you used your gift.**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

*<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

*<sup>11</sup> For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

*<sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

*<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

*<sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*