

Worship, My Life as a Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

- A. We have been talking about worship over the past several weeks
 - 1. Who, What, When Where, How
- B. All too often people practice Christianity for what they can get out of it
- C. I submit to you that being a blessing to God should be your first goal in life
- D. Background of Text
 - 1. Paul is saying that our lives should be lives that worship because of God's mercies, many of which were enumerated in **Romans 1-11**
 - a. Because of God's mercy in sending his son to die for us
 - b. Because of God's mercy in forgiving us
 - c. Because of God's mercy justifying us or declaring us righteous
 - d. Because of God's mercy of enabling us to live the Christian life
 - e. Because of God's mercy in making us "accepted in the beloved"
 - f. Because of all of these mercies, and more, we are entreated, we are encouraged, and we are beseeched to participate in a life that worships
- E. Three points to make this morning as we discuss Worship, My Life as a Living Sacrifice

I. A Life That Worships is Responsive

- A. Look at **Romans 12:1**
- B. A key part of worship for the Jewish people in the Old Testament was that of offering sacrifices
 - 1. In the temple, a sacrifice was offered to God both in the morning and the evening of each day
 - 2. Besides these sacrifices there were many others offered, especially on holy days
 - 3. When a Jew came to God in worship he would often bring a sacrifice
 - 4. Sacrifices were often offered as atonement for sin
 - 5. The Old Testament sacrifices were pictures and temporary coverings for sin until the great sacrifice for sin was made on the cross of Calvary
- C. But when we come to God, we should offer Him a living sacrifice
 - 1. That living sacrifice is our own body yielded to Him out of appreciation for what He has done - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
 - 2. Your body is the temple of God, the Holy Spirit
 - 3. Through Jesus' death on the cross, your body has been purchased - You are no longer your own
 - 4. When you give your body as a living sacrifice, you are laying down your life once and for all, and then daily for your God
- D. This sacrifice is to be a "holy" sacrifice
 - 1. Something that is holy is set apart from sin
 - 2. Something that is holy is set apart for God
- E. When the Jews offered a sacrifice to God it was to be perfect, without any blemishes
- F. When the Jews offered a sacrifice to God it was to be the best they had, not leftovers
- G. When the Jews offered a sacrifice it was to be one that was acceptable unto God
 - 1. In fact when the Jews offered a sacrifice that was less than the best, God did not like it - **Malachi 1:8**

- H. The sacrifices we offer to God are to be holy and acceptable unto God
1. And considering all that God has done for you, being a living sacrifice is the reasonable thing to do as an act of worship before Him
 2. When we are living sacrifices we are actually dying
 3. The dying that we are doing is dying to ourselves
 4. And that's exactly what Jesus wants us to do - **Luke 9:23-24**
 5. And as we die to ourselves, we are allowing Christ through his Spirit to live through us - **Galatians 2:20**
- I. So what do I say to God when I, as a Christian, present my body to Him as a living sacrifice?

***Lord, here is my mind to think as you would have me to think
 Here is my heart to beat only for you
 Here are my eyes to see what you would have to see
 Here are my ears to hear what you would have me to hear
 Here is my mouth to speak for you and to speak and sing praises to you
 Here are my arms to embrace others in love
 Here are my hands to serve you in doing good
 Here are my knees to bend to you in prayer and adoration
 Here are legs to stand righteously in this world
 Here are my feet to go wherever you want me to go***

J. Brethren, you can not truly worship God unless you are truly surrendered to God

II. A Life That Worships Is Renewed

- A. Look at **Romans 12:2**
1. The world's way of thinking is nothing like God's way of thinking
 2. The world tells us to look out for #1, ourselves - God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love the Lord our God with all hearts, souls and minds
 3. The world tells us to do whatever feels good - God tells us to do what is right
 4. The world tells us to get even - God says to turn the other cheek
 5. The world tells us to build up wealth - God says to share our wealth with others
 6. The world tells us there are many ways to Heaven - God says that there is only one way to Heaven
- B. The world's system is so powerful that it is easy for us as Christians to think the way the world thinks and to act the way the world acts
- C. Instead of being conformed to this old world, God wants us to be transformed
1. He actually wants us to undergo a metamorphosis
 - a. Metamorphosis means "to be changed into another form".
 - b. It is what happens when a tadpole becomes a frog and a caterpillar becomes a butterfly
 2. We will stop letting the world squeeze us into its mold as we allow God to transform our thinking
- D. So how do we go about having our minds transformed? - **2 Corinthians 3:18**
1. A glass is a mirror.
 2. Have you ever studied yourself in the mirror, taking the time to look at wrinkles, pimples, and or gray hairs?
 3. Have you ever examined your looks intently?
- E. God wants us to gaze into a different mirror
1. He doesn't want us to gaze in a mirror to look at ourselves
 2. God wants us to look into a mirror to gaze at Him and His Son and to be transformed by that gaze

3. He wants us to gaze into the Word of God which is like a mirror
 4. The more I gaze into the Word of God, the more I will see the glory of the Lord Jesus
 5. The more I see the glory of the Lord Jesus, the more I will become like Him
- F. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to change us - **Psalm 119:11, 80**
1. Only the Spirit of God can truly change us as we live a life that worships, one that responds to Him and becomes a living sacrifice and one that is transformed by the renewing of the mind
 2. Such a transformation by the word of God requires discipline
 3. There is the discipline of actually trying to learn when the Word of God is taught or preached
 4. There is the discipline of memorizing and meditating upon the Word of God
 5. There is the discipline of personal Bible study

III. A Life That Worships Is Resolved

- A. Look again back to **Romans 12:2**
1. A life that worships requires discipline
 2. The discipline to respond to the call to being a living sacrifice every day
 3. The discipline to have our mind renewed through our examination of God's Word
- B. Another word for discipline is resolve
1. Because I appreciate what God has done in my life I must be resolved to prove in me, what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God
- C. Did you get that?
1. God's will is good
 2. God's will is acceptable
 3. God's will is perfect
- D. If you believe that, you should be resolved to prove it true in your own life
- E. Worship should be a way of life for you as a Christian

Conclusion

- A. My life as a living sacrifice requires me to be:
1. Responsive
 2. Renewed
 3. Resolved
- B. Where are you at in the sacrifice of life today?
- C. Invitation