

Romans: The Gospel

Mercy On All (Living Sacrifice)

Romans 11:30-12:2

<p>Previously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel's national rejection, spiritually benched • Personal salvation available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews cut off, Gentiles grafted in - Israel to be grafted back • Irrevocable gifts and call of God
<p>[Pray]</p> <p>:30-32</p> <p>We were <u>once</u> disobedient Are you still? <i>Go and sin no more</i></p> <p>Israel's national/ethnic disobedience to God > Shifted His mercy to the Gentiles and Gentile nations</p>	<p>Then the mercy shown the Gentiles is meant to bring mercy back to the Jewish people and Israel</p> <p><u>The key: God committed us ALL to disobedience</u></p> <p>Committed - shut up together, enclosed, fish in a net</p> <p><i>Walled out of the Garden of Eden, Gen 3</i></p>
<p>Remember: Rom 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,</p> <p>God's plan used <u>ALL</u> of our disobedience, rejection and sin</p> <p>For what? As an <u>opportunity</u> for His <u>mercy</u></p> <p>Remember: Romans 6:1-2 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?</p>	<p>God's purpose? Save <u>everyone</u> Jew, Gentile, past, present, future</p> <p>God is a merciful God: Judgment will come, but not until He's exhausted mercy <i>Can't we personally attest to that?</i> <i>Over and over His mercy with us</i></p> <p>It's why final judgment hasn't yet come...</p>

:33-35

- God judged that we were all sinful, rebellious
- God also judged that mercy was the right thing to offer first

You can spend all day, all your life and never understand it all

It's a sight to behold - thunder, lightning, rain clouds, wind, crickets with kids

Do you think God is wrong...

- in offering mercy?
- Casting Israel off?
- Grafting Gentiles in?
- Planning on bringing Israel back?

Is there anything you'd correct God on?

Then for homework, Job 38-40

Whatever God decides.

It is right.

- If today it's mercy. Right.
- If tomorrow it's judgment. Correct.
- **Both alike are ultimately good, holy and just.**

Remember who He is:

More Homework, Ezekiel 1

:36

Of Him - His design, plan, ideas

Through Him - His work, His provision, His command

DG "even if we had the plan, we couldn't make it happen."

To Him - His glory, His credit, His purpose fulfilled

Paul says AMEN!!!

To the power of God, His grand design and purpose

Paul stunned!

Ever have that? In awe of God & His design?

This is it - the truth of the gospel

awe inspiring, humbling, wise

Mercy given

to those who don't deserve it

His people, All people

Shifting gears from Israel to the church and her directives

12:1-2

DG "Paul appeals to our will."

- **The mental faculty by which one deliberately chooses or decides upon a course of action.**
- **Diligent purposefulness; determination.**
 - an athlete with the will to win.
- **Self-control; self-discipline.**
 - lacked the will to overcome the addiction.

<p>Brethren we're family! from any nation, Jew or Gentile</p> <p>How? By the <u>mercies</u> of God</p> <p>It's why we love each other, show grace...</p> <p><u>If we forget it's by His mercy, we're lost!</u></p>	<p><i>Friend moving for ministry, masters, seminary credit</i></p> <p><i>I told him seminary is good - let it light you on fire. It's really just loving Jesus and others</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 8:1 - Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.</p>
<p>With that in mind... As Christians, what do we sacrifice?</p> <p><u>Our bodies.</u></p> <p>How?</p> <p>Making a decision, choice in your mind, with the heart God gave you as the motive.</p>	<p>Heart - seat of emotions, throne of your life</p> <p>Mind - a bit like the gateway - lets things in, decides how and what to carry out</p> <p>Ezekiel 36:26 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.</p> <p><i>It's been said: God has given us a new heart, <u>but it's our responsibility to renew our minds</u></i></p>
<p>What we <u>do</u> should be based on what we <u>believe</u> in our heart</p> <p>And what we <u>believe</u> in our heart should be based on the <u>Word</u> of God</p> <p><i>DG Not "How do I feel?" or "What do I do?" but What is true? What does God's Word say?"</i></p> <p>Psalm 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.</p> <p>Sacrifice or sin? Where does it start?</p> <p><u>Saying no to the flesh.</u></p>	<p>What is to rule our lives? Flesh & it's desires? God's Spirit & His?</p> <p>Our bodies should serve us and God Not the other way around</p> <p>1 Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.</p> <p>Natural needs are natural, made by God - food, water, affection <u>But we are to have self control</u></p> <p>And so we sacrifice our bodies</p>

<p>This is the <u>sweet smell</u> God desires Gen 8, post-flood, not human life</p> <p>Religion likes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sacrifice anything but self • Will sacrifice something that looks like self but for selfish motives • reframes personal desire into religious acts <p>Doing good - because it <u>feels</u> good! Doing good - because it <u>earns</u> salvation!</p> <p><i>What about Buddhists?! - Don't they desire to have no desire at all? Impossible!</i></p>	<p>Religious people sacrifice to <u>earn</u> mercy <i>Making deals with God</i></p> <p>Christians sacrifice because we've <u>received</u> mercy</p> <p>Sacrifice should actually be sacrifice</p> <p><i>Widows mite</i></p>
<p>When we sacrifice, where do we <u>present</u>? To God. It's for Him, from us.</p> <p>We pray "Not my will, but Your will" "Not, God help me do my will!"</p> <p>Sacrifice is the difference between (real) Biblical and Carnal Christianity - who's body is being offered up! Who's will is being accomplished!</p>	<p>It's a <u>living</u> sacrifice It's not self-immolation for sacrifice's sake</p> <p>Wordly sacrifice = death God's sacrifice = life</p> <p>Your body, sacrificed produces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy spiritual life • Healthier lifestyle (that doesn't mean worshipping food or the gym) • Healthier relationships • Healthier church • Heavenly reward
<p>The sacrifice <u>benefits</u> the sacrificer I think it benefits us more than God! God can do God-things without us!</p> <p>Our bodily sacrifice <u>isn't to appease</u> God >>> That was Jesus sacrifice on the cross</p> <p>God's Sacrifices Have <u>Standards</u>... (like OT, expound)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It prevents us from suffering more because of sin • It helps us keep the Spirit in charge • Makes us holy (sanctification) • Lets us serve God • is acceptable only because of the blood of Jesus • Reveals what means most to us and we actually believe what we say • Shows that heaven is our home

<p>Sacrifice is a <u>reasonable service</u> “Logical” “Ministry, priestly services, for hire”</p> <p>The flesh won’t think it’s logical The world will say it’s crazy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Closing your restaurant on a Sunday? Think of all the money lost!</i> • <i>Not doing _____ think of all the _____ missed!</i> <p>Spiritually, it’s 100% logical</p> <p>Jesus sacrificed Himself first - for us So is it really too much to offer our lives back?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He got our sin and death as He obeyed the Father • We get his righteousness and life as we obey God 	<p>Pretty illogical for a believer to think it’s unreasonable!</p> <p><i>Things given up, world even Christians scoff at...drinking</i></p> <p>Is it really, actually a big deal to give up anything for Jesus?</p> <p>It might FEEL like a big deal, but is it REALLY? <i>Think about the cross for just a half-second...then that thing...</i></p> <p>The sacrifice might be painful But it is always joyful You find real joy in doing God’s will!</p> <p><i>Earthly desires quickly fade But heavenly desires are eternal</i></p> <p><i>E.g. Phone or devotions, lunch or prayer, etc.</i></p>
<p>THIS is how we serve God humble, submitted, obedience - to His Spirit, His will, to be His body</p> <p>Leviticus 19:2c - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.</p> <p>God’s work, will, desires will eventually come in conflict with your work, will, desires - who do you belong to?</p> <p><i>“God wants you, not your work” DG</i></p> <p><i>An ancient Greek never thought of presenting his body to God. They thought the body was so unspiritual that God didn’t care about it. Paul shows here that God is concerned about our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:20 reminds us that God bought our bodies with a price.</i></p>	<p>Your bodily sacrifice will glorify God, others will see your life on fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the world in shock by your self immolation? • Do they see the burning bush that won’t burn out? • Do they see you in the furnace, not being burned up? • It proves how good, acceptable and perfect God’s plan is <p>Carnal Christians lives however <u>they want</u>. <u>Flesh & fairy tales</u></p> <p>Real Christians strive to live & worship how God wants - <u>Spirit and Truth</u></p> <p><u>Judo master, power, effortless movements motivation runs out. discipline carries</u></p>

What we do in the body is directly connected to our spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:15 - Do you not know that your **bodies** are **members** of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? **Certainly not!**

When we're first saved, we look exactly like the world.
Spirit saved, but life not yet sanctified.

Then God starts challenging what we worshiped - with sacrifice

Throwing CDs out, movies, cigarettes, activities, clothes, words

Do you still look/talk/vote like the world?

- **Saying no to self** will make you start looking like heaven!
- **Completely** made in God's image

We're not to be conformed to this world

Conformed, fashioned after, pattern of

When we make ourselves a living sacrifice...

it results in our lives - body, mind, soul - serving Him and His body...

He likens His church, believers, to

- a bride,
- a body of Christ made from Christ
- (like Adam and Eve)

Logically - if we are His body, we should do what He, the Head, wants

Christians spend so much time trying to be accepted by the world! Popular!

We need a thorough brainwashing!
Full of filth, lies, incorrect ideas, worldly attitudes

*"Follow your heart" or "the heart is wicked"
"Live for the moment" or "live for eternity"*

How to wash our minds?

Eph 5:26b the washing of water by the word

Read your Bible. Listen to teaching. Pray about your doubts and objections. Come ready with a HEART to hear.

(Why we worship in song first)

Brake fluid change - constantly pump clean
Eventually the old will be flushed out

Renewl, renovation - complete change for better

restoration/restomod in car world

When a body doesn't obey the brain, Or the brain and body don't communicate correctly...big problem

Paralysis, stumbling, tremors

- A couple in harmony **or** arguing
- A friend who always takes and never gives, **or** those who share
- A one-sided conversation **or** true fellowship
- Sound mind **or** insane thoughts
- Hypocrisy **or** genuineness

Proper alignment, sacrifice, submission of heart, mind, body - proves out the word of God to you and to the world

<p>What's the solution? <u>Sacrifice.</u> The core of the sacrifice?</p>	<p><u>Changing our minds</u> <u>to match His heart.</u></p>
<p>The sacrifice <u>itself</u> isn't always the point</p> <p>It's the renewing of your mind to be aligned with God's thoughts</p> <p><u>THE REST WILL FOLLOW</u></p> <p>New heart + changed mind = natural life of living sacrifice "Intelligent worship"</p>	<p>Sacrifice is a matter of <u>perspective</u></p> <p>If you're giving up something now that really isn't going to last anyway, <u>is it really a sacrifice?</u></p> <p>If what you're getting is better, have you really given up anything?</p> <p>Saying no to self, yes to Jesus</p>
<p>Mat 16:24-26 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"</p> <p>Philippians 2:5 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,</p> <p>Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <u>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.</u></p>	<p>Because of His...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mercy ● Salvation ● Forgiveness ● Grace ● Goodness... <p>What is that reasonable service before <u>you</u> today?</p> <p>Remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The altar is right at the choice ● Right where the decision is made <p>What is God leading you to put on the altar? (remember Abraham and Isaac)</p> <p>Present your self there, with it, ready for whatever God will do with it, be the living sacrifice</p> <p>All because of His <u>mercy</u> Sacrifice in return <u>Of Him, Through Him, To Him</u></p>