

MY ENTIRE LIFE IS WORSHIP

Living Sacrifices
Exposition of Romans, XLVII
Romans 12:1-2

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INTRODUCTION

For Further Study: Deuteronomy 29:29; I Samuel 15:22; Micah 6:8; I John 5:2-3

I. OFFERING OUR LIVES AS LIVING SACRIFICES ~ 12:1

A. Brothers by the Grace of God

For Further Study: Read ahead ~ Romans 16.

B. Offer Yourself by the Mercy of God

For Further Study: Psalm 139

C. A Living Sacrifice – Holy and Acceptable to God

For Further Study: I Chronicles 21:13; Romans 15:8-9

D. The Most Appropriate, Logical Response

For Further Study: Psalm 34:8; 119:18; Ephesians 1:18

II. RENEWING OUR MINDS SO AS TO DISCERN THE WILL OF GOD ~ 12:2

A. A Negative Command: Do Not Be Conformed to This World

For Further Study: : John 17:15-16; (II Cor. 6:17 and I Cor. 5:9); (I Thessalonians 4:11-12; I Timothy 2:2 and Ephesians 5:6-11; II Timothy 3:12); Galatians 1:4-5; II Corinthians 4:3-4; II Peter 3:15

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B. A Positive Command: *Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind*

For Further Study: Philippians 2:12-13; I Timothy 4:7

C. To This End: *That I Might Know the Will of God!*

For Further Study: Matthew 12:34-36; I Corinthians 10:12

D. God's Will Described: *Good, Acceptable, and Perfect!*

For Further Study: John 8:32; 17:17; II Timothy 3:16

CONCLUSION

OUR GOD AND FATHER,

Gracious. Kind. Benevolent. Loving. Faithful. Merciful.

Your mercies are too numerous to count; were I to try to count them, they would outnumber the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. And they drive me to my knees. Your mercies drive me to worship. Doxology. Praise. Adoration.

I want nothing more than to give you my whole being. To offer myself a living sacrifice. The sacrifice of my life ~ so meager ~ is in no way in itself an atonement, but a sacrifice that I am giving you because an atonement has already been made for me. You do not delight in the animal on the altar as a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Set me apart. Consecrate me. Use me.

What else can I possibly do other than worship You?! You alone give my life reason, significance, purpose, and meaning. Teach me that therein lies my hope – NOT by conforming to the pattern of this world, but by the transformation of a renewed mind. A mind set on You. A mind bent on pleasing You. A mind broken by Your kindness toward me.

I want to be a light in this world; salt on this earth. I want to see the world the way You see it. I desire to think Your thoughts after You. I long for people to see me, and see a more excellent way. Show me the path of wisdom and the way of spontaneous godliness so that doing Your will is second-nature. And may each person You put in the path of my life know that Your will is good, acceptable and perfect. May my life say, *God is worthy!*

Teach me to approve of what is most worthy; treasure what is most precious; value what is most valuable; admire what is most beautiful; hate what is most evil; abhor what is most ugly. Renew me, O God! Take me! Body and soul! Make me an instrument of Your glory to the world. May what you have done on the inside be evident on the outside – for this is my spiritual worship. You are my all-satisfying treasure.

Amen.

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