



A Living Sacrifice Romans 12:1-2

Something to Start Us Off

- Have you ever experienced God's mercy in such a profound way that it changed how you wanted to live? What did that moment look like for you?

Something to Notice

Below is the complete text of Romans 12:1-2 in the ESV. Let's read it slowly and mark anything that stands out. (Feel free to also consult your preferred translation.) Paul encourages a sincere, practical response to everything God has done that we see in Romans 1–11.

[Romans 12:1-2 ESV] 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

** Everything Paul has taught about God's mercy, righteousness, and faithfulness (Chs. 1–11) now calls for a whole-life response: we don't just believe the gospel—we offer ourselves completely to God.*

** True worship is not occasional or ritualistic; it is a daily, living sacrifice and a transformed mind that enables us to discern and do God's will.*

Discussion Questions:

- Why does Paul begin chapter 12 with “therefore... by the mercies of God”? How do the truths we've studied in Romans up till now make this appeal powerful?
- What does it mean to present our bodies as a “living and holy sacrifice”? How is this different from the Old Testament animal sacrifices?
- What does it look like in everyday life to refuse to be “conformed to this world” while allowing God to “transform” us by renewing our minds?
- How does a renewed mind help us (KJV) “prove” (test and approve) what God's will is—good, acceptable, and perfect?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 12:1-2 this week. Let these verses move you from simply learning about God's mercy to actively offering your whole life as worship. Who is one person you can share this challenge with?