

Romans 12:1-2 – Body & Mind for God (Part 1)

1. **Prodding** – “*I beseech you*”

parakaleo – This word has many shades of meaning:

- 12:1 I beseech you...
- 12:8 he who exhorts...
- 15:30 Now I beg you...
- 16:17 Now I urge you...

2. **Premise** – “*therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God*”

“*therefore*” – Paul builds upon what he has shared before – we need to understand passages in context (immediate, book, Bible)

“*by the mercies of God*” – What God has shown already, and what God has given to us already.

- 11:30-32 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.
- 2 Cor 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

3. **Presentation** – “*that you present your bodies a living sacrifice*”

“*present*” – place beside, put at someone’s disposal; hand over

“*your bodies*” – God wants us to place our bodies at His disposal.

- 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,
- 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
- 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

- 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- 8:10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.
- 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- 8:23 Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

“*a living sacrifice*” – This pictures the Old Testament sacrifices that were killed. We are to be LIVING sacrifices.

- Heb 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
- Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

This is picking up a concept previously discussed in Romans:

- 6:13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?
- 6:19 I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

4. Parameters – “*holy, acceptable to God*”

“*holy*” – pure, clean, absence of sin

- 1:7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 16:2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.
- 1 Pet 1:13-16 - ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
- 1 Pet 2:5 – you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

“*acceptable to God*” – The Bible clearly indicates that some things are well-pleasing to God (and thus others are not).

- Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.
- 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
- Eph 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.
- Phil 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
- Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
- Heb 13:21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

5. Payment – “*which is your reasonable service*”

Lit. “*the logical service of you*”

λογικός (logikos) – *reasonable; logical (here and 1 Pet 2:2) – verb form is logidzmai (to account; to reckon)*

- Our offering of our bodies as a living, holy, well-pleasing sacrifice is logical, reasonable.
- It is a reasonable, logical, “no brainer” to give ourselves, our lives, to God as an act of gratefulness for God’s mercies shown to us.

λατρεία (latreia) – *worship; temple service (here and 4 occurrences)*

This is not the normal word for service (diakonos – deacon). This is a special word that relates to the OT service in the temple by the priests.

- John 16:2 "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.
- Rom 9:4 who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;
- Heb 9:1 Then indeed, even the first *covenant* had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.
- Heb 9:6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

It is our NT act of spiritual worship to present our bodies as living, holy, acceptable sacrifice!

As the priests in the OT offered animals as sacrifices, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices. This is our reasonable response to God.