

Our Reasonable Act of Worship

Romans 12:1-2

"One of the great paradoxes of Christianity concerns the Christian life: We must die in order to live. We find this teaching many places in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, but the basic, foundational statement is by Jesus, who said, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it' (Luke 9:23-24).

In Paul's culture a sacrifice was always an animal that was presented to a priest to be killed. So Paul is saying by this striking metaphor that the Christian life begins by offering ourselves to God for death. The paradox is that by offering ourselves to God we are enabled to live for him. Therefore, it is by dying that we are enabled live, period. For as Jesus said, trying to live, if its living for ourselves, is actually death, while dying to self is actually the way to full living." Boice

- I. Jesus sacrifice for the sins of mankind, his shed blood, purchased men and women for God so that they could be saved from God's wrath against sin (Rev. 5:9). Because Jesus *"loved us and gave himself up as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"* (Eph. 5:2), we too must wholly offer ourselves to him as a fragrant offering and sacrifice.

Rom. 12:1

2 Cor. 5:14-15 *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

- A. The sacrifice we bring before Lord is to be a living one rather than a dead one. God wants all of us, not just what we feel like giving him. If we are serious in laying down our lives for him, then we will make every effort to understand what that means for us individually and corporately. In God's eyes, there is no such thing as a situational offering of ourselves depending on what we think is best for us.

Rom. 6:13

1 Cor. 6:15,19-20

1 Cor. 7:34

Rom. 6:11-14

- B. The sacrifice we bring before the Lord is to be carefully thought out by using our intellect and reasoning in determining how to live our lives before him. Jesus enables us to do that through his Word, which has been given to us to thoroughly equip us for every good work, and through the divine enablement of the Spirit (2 Pe. 1:3).

2 Ti. 3:16

logikos = pertaining to the reason or logic 1. spiritual, pertaining to the soul 2. agreeable to reason, following reason, reasonable, logical (Strong's)

"We are to sacrifice ourselves for Jesus if we love him. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13), and he did it for us."
Boice

- II. A potential stumbling block that could hinder the heartfelt sacrifice of ourselves to God, is Satan's deception through the evil world's system of belief. Our choice is to either conform and be molded by Satan's insidious system of deception, or be transformed and molded by God's good, pleasing and perfect will. We must remember that whom or what we embrace will have eternal consequences.

Rom. 12:2

Col. 3:1-3

"As we respond to the call through submission, the Lord does the transforming... Gradually and supernaturally, our minds begin to think as God thinks, desire what God desires, love as God loves, and see things with the same perspective as He sees them. As this becomes reality, we are able to discern the will of God and to cooperate with Him in accomplishing it (Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:1-11)." Wiersbe