

RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS, RIGHT LIVING

ROMANS 12:1-2

In the Christian life, doctrine and duty always go together; one without the other is rather pointless!

What we know should translate to how we live.

- Never forget: What we ***BELIEVE*** should always determine how we ***BEHAVE***.
- If we have a right relationship with God, we will have right relationships with the people in our lives.

ARE YOU SELFISH OR SACRIFICIAL?

In this forceful and compassionate exhortation, Paul does not focus on what we need to receive more from God, but on what we are supposed to give Him.

- Which is everything . . . ALL of what we are!
- The key to a productive and satisfying Christian life is not in getting more, but in giving all.
- Christian and narcissist do not go together.

WORSHIPPING AND SERVING

Every Christian is like Melchizedek in that we are each *“a priest of God Most High.”* **GEN. 14:18**

- Christians are a spiritual priesthood as much so as the Levitical and Aaronic priesthods of the Old Covenant; “our temples” (**bodies**) have been made to serve just as they did. **1 PET. 2:5-9**
- True Christian joy and satisfaction can only be had by surrendering back to the Lord what He has already freely given us, including our inmost being.

FOUR OFFERINGS

- 1.** We must first have a right relationship with God through first offering ***OUR SOULS***—the eternal essence of who we are!
 - a.** The unregenerate person cannot give God his body, his mind, or his will, because he has not given God *himself*. We need God's mercies.
 - b.** The mercies of God might well be called the application of grace.

THE MERCIES OF GOD IN ROMANS

- 1. The mercies of God are reflected **IN** His power of salvation (**ROM. 1:16**) and in His great kindness toward those He saves. **ROM. 2:4; 11:22***
- 2. **IN** the mercies of God we have freedom from sinful living. **ROM. 6:18; 7:6***
- 3. **IN** the mercies of God we have eternal life (**ROM. 5:21; 6:22-23**) in His very presence, and the resurrection of our bodies (**ROM. 8:11**) to serve Him in His everlasting kingdom . . . and so much more!*

THE FINAL THREE OFFERINGS

- 2.** We must first have a right relationship with God by offering our ***PHYSICAL BODIES***—our temples!
- 3.** We must first have a right relationship with God by offering ***OUR MINDS***—our thought lives!
- 4.** We must first have a right relationship with God by offering ***OUR WILLS***—His will becomes our will, controlling everything!

Jesus must first have all of us if we want Him to do all He wants to do with us, through us, and in us.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

We must pray about everything, and then let God have His way in everything.

- Try to begin each day by surrendering your body to the Lord.
- Then, spend time with His Word and let Him transform your mind and prepare your thoughts for that new day.
- Then, pray that your plans of the day are His plans for your day, and let Him work as He sees best.