

Devotional Questions – Romans 12:1-2

1. *What are the ‘mercies of God’ that Paul is thinking of (Romans 12:1)?*
2. *How do these ‘mercies’ motivate me to live a Christ-honouring life?*
3. *What does Paul mean by being a ‘living sacrifice’ (Romans 12:1)?*
4. *In what practical ways can I ‘present’ or ‘offer’ [NIVs] change that misses the emphasis on holiness of the church i.e. “**holy, acceptable unto God**” with Ephesians 5:27 “**That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish**”] my body to God as an act of worship (Romans 12:1)?*
5. *Why does Paul focus on the mind, rather than our actions (Romans 12:2)?*
6. *What practical steps can I take to ‘renew’ my mind (Romans 12:2)?*
7. *What is the end result of our being transformed (Romans 12:2)?*
8. *What is ‘that good and acceptable and perfect will of God’ [NKJV substitute that cuts out the punctuation in the statement “**that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**” that encourages pauses for application of 2 Timothy 2:7 “**Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things**”] for His people (Romans 12:2)?*
9. *What does it mean to ‘prove what the will of God is’ (Romans 12:2)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 12:1-2, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 462-476 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1503 for detailed comment and www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Romans 12 – Summary Thoughts* p 2 for additional remarks.

1. What are the 'mercies of God' that Paul is thinking of (Romans 12:1)?

These are all the components of God's mercy that He wrought in **"the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory"** 2 Timothy 2:10 as Paul sets out for the Ephesians and which today's believer should always remember having been one of **"the children of wrath"** Ephesians 2:3 but instead of receiving God's deserved wrath is the beneficiary of the exact opposite.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" Ephesians 2:4-9

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" Titus 3:5.

2. How do these 'mercies' motivate me to live a Christ-honouring life?

They should according as Paul writes further to the Ephesians and to Titus as today's believer should follow being careful to determine from God what such works should be by means of wisdom as James exhorts and then set about them with no slacking. **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"** James 1:5.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Ephesians 2:10.

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men" Titus 3:8.

3. What does Paul mean by being a 'living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1)?

See this extract from *Romans 12 – Summary Thoughts* p 1.

1. **Romans 12:1.** Paul is here beseeching i.e. pleading with his readers in the light of God's mercy to both Jew and Gentile in sum according to Romans 11:30-31 **"For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy"** to as Peter states **"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation"** 1 Peter 1:15.

That stance is **"reasonable service"** **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"** 2 Corinthians 5:21.

The individual believer's body therefore is intended as **"a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God"** as Paul exhorts Timothy both to purge *and* to flee concerning un-holiness.

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" 2 Timothy 2:21-22.

For today's believer "**righteousness**" is the indwelling Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 13:5, "**faith, charity, peace**" are among "**the fruit of the Spirit**" Galatians 5:22 from "**a pure heart**" of "**they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience**" Luke 8:15.

4. *In what practical ways can I 'present' or 'offer' [NIVs] change that misses the emphasis on holiness of the church i.e. "**holy, acceptable unto God**" with Ephesians 5:27 "**That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish**"] my body to God as an act of worship (Romans 12:1)?*

See *Question 2* with respect to "**good works**" Ephesians 2:10, Titus 3:8 and follow Peter's exhortation with respect to shunning "**the will of the Gentiles**" 1 Peter 4:3 and instead "**Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**" Ephesians 6:6.

*Shunning "**the will of the Gentiles**" 1 Peter 4:3*

***"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead"* 1 Peter 4:1-5.**

***"...as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart"* Ephesians 6:6**

***"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"* 1 Peter 4:7-11.**

5. *Why does Paul focus on the mind, rather than our actions (Romans 12:2)?*

Sanctifying the mind is the first objective in becoming "**...as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**" Ephesians 6:6 as Paul exhorts both the Corinthians and today's believer. "**(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**" 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

6. *What practical steps can I take to 'renew' my mind (Romans 12:2)?*

THE practical step is as follows. See the following scriptures and the attached study **The Topical Memory System**.

***"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* Psalm 119:9-11**

***"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts"* Jeremiah 15:16**

7. *What is the end result of our being transformed (Romans 12:2)?*

It is as King David testifies. "**I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart**" Psalm 40:8.

8. *What is 'that good and acceptable and perfect will of God' [NKJV substitute that cuts out the punctuation in the statement "that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" that encourages pauses for application of 2 Timothy 2:7 "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things"] for His people (Romans 12:2)?*

It is fulfilling all that the Lord wants done as He wants it done as the Lord testifies of King David. ***"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will"*** Acts 13:22.

9. *What does it mean to 'prove what the will of God is' (Romans 12:2)?*

It is the outcome of Deuteronomy 13:4 ***"Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him"*** according to the fulfilment of promise. ***"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation"*** Psalm 91:14-16.

The Topical Memory System

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ 1 John 4 Part 1 Question 6 pp 7-8.

6. *John reminds us that 'he who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world.'* Why do you think we so quickly forget this (1 John 4:4)? *The correct expression is "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

This happens, where it happens, mainly because too many believers won't do what the Lord told them to do. Note how the Lord defeated the devil in the wilderness. The expression ***"It is written"*** is written 7 times in Matthew 4 and Luke 4 i.e. Matthew 4:4, 6, 7, 10, Luke 4:4, 8, 10.

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4.

"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" Luke 4:4.

Note Paul's exhortation with respect to ***"every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"*** and the *practical* help available that will prove beneficial to every Christian.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" Colossians 3:16. One practical way to apply Colossians 3:16 today is by means of *The Topical Memory System*, designed by *The Navigators*.

See www.navpress.com/#sthash.f7hn1x9V.dpbs. Search Topical Memory System. See also www.eden.co.uk/shop/tms_topical_memory_system_118852.html.

The product description is as follows. This writer can testify to the effectiveness of the system, having used it for over 45 years. Verse cards are available in the AV1611 Text.

The Topical Memory System (TMS) approach to Scripture memory is easy to learn, practical, and effective.

Description: *Use the Topical Memory System Kit (TMS), developed by The Navigators, to improve your knowledge of the Bible, deepen your walk with God, and memorize [74] verses that will carry you through the hard times of life.*

