

Sacrifice: An Act Of Worship

– Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

If we give our body then we give everything it contains. The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning the whole instrument of life, our physical bodies and heart, its driving force, also our minds and human spirit, [Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11].

This idea contains three laws or principles.

The first is the principle of surrender –

If we do not surrender to Jesus Christ, it is impossible for Him to do anything for us, in us, or through us.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

This analogy further illustrates our surrender.

Unless the clay is pliable in the hands of the Potter, yielding to the way He is moulding it, the Potter cannot make anything of value or usefulness out of the clay.

Romans 9:20-21 [NIV] *“But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? ‘Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?”’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”*

With this illustration Paul is **not** saying that some of us are worth more than others, but that the Creator has control over the created object.

It is possible for an object to be useful but not beautiful or it is possible for an object to be beautiful but not useful but enjoyed for its beauty alone.

God wants His vessels to be both useful and beautiful. If God is going to make such vessels out of us then we have to yield to His Law of surrender, giving ourselves totally to His moulding hands.

The created object has no right to demand anything from its Creator, its very existence depends on Him.

Keeping this in mind removes any temptation to have pride in our personal achievements.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NIV] *“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.’”*

Any accomplishments that we have in life are what God has chosen to do in and through us, so we have nothing to boast about.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

We are the result of God working in our lives and are saved from eternal death only by God’s grace, but are moulded by Him to be useful to Him in the work He is doing among human beings.

The second principle or law is concentration –

The secret of every successful person is concentration, for example, musicians are mediocre unless they concentrate many hours each day practicing their instrument.

They must give themselves to this dedicated practicing completely and in a concentrated manner.

The same applies to an athlete. Athletes are people who live for sports all the time. They play with their teams during the season or prepare for some event, but the rest of their lives they keep themselves fit and in good shape, always exercising.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 [NIV] *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

Paul likens life to a marathon race in which we have to keep our eye on the finishing post to enable us to ignore the pain of our continual running the race.

The same can be with scientists who have to concentrate all their thoughts on their research.

Thomas Edison was an example of this, sleeping only four hours a night. He lived for nothing else but his research and projects.

The end result was that he produced many important inventions.

The third law or principle is that of attraction –

This is a little harder to understand but an essential part of our relationship with our Creator God.

We need to be fascinated, find He has irresistible charm.

Look on Jesus Christ as our hero as well as our Saviour.

If something does **not** fascinate us, we can take it or leave it.

Christians who do **not** know this relationship will never be anything but half-Christians all their lives.

This law of attraction as seen in this world’s society is often a personal tragedy.

Being attracted to something evil, base or unworthy can only lead to personal tragedy.

Some young girls, for example, desire a relationship with someone that they consider to be their hero, wanting it so badly that they sell themselves for it.

Many men desire to be rich, so enamoured of wealth that they sold themselves, their hearts and character, in order to become rich.

The most pitiful person is the gambler, so enamoured to the chance of unearned wealth that they are led to the inability to escape this way of life.

Jesus Christ redirects us by inviting us to be linked and led by Him in life.

Matthew 11:28-29 [NIV] *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

Jesus Christ is telling us to come to Him, be attracted and fascinated by Him, concentrate on Him, be surrendered to Him.

We have to understand Who Jesus Christ is to safely accept this invitation.

God was **not** able to say all that He could say about Himself, because those men He inspired to speak about Him were human with all the limitations that involves, both in the writers and readers.

Nevertheless, all those who knew God best tried to tell us about Him.

Genesis 1:1 [NIV] *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Moses tells us that the One who calls us to Himself has the right to do so because He antedates time, He transcends space, He fills His universe and He is God.

John 1:1-3, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Jesus Christ was the One through Whom all the universe was created, [Psalms 104:1-6].

Isaiah 40:12-14 [NIV] *“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counsellor? Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?”*

Isaiah asked who could be compared with God.

Colossians 2:9-10 [NIV] *“For in Christ all the fulness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fulness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority.”*

The apostle Paul also gave us insight on who God is.

These scriptures along with others tell us that there is only One person whom we can trust to surrender our whole life to, for He is very different from any other person.

Isaiah 9:6-7 [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

This can be said of no other person other than Jesus Christ who is both man and God.

Acts 1:9-11 [NIV] *“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”*

The Jesus Christ is coming to this earth a second time as *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* [**Revelation 19:11-16**].

Are we ready for our new intimate relationship with Him, [Revelation 19:6-9]?