

7.3.22 / Worship Sacrificially / Romans 12:1-2

Our eyes on our blessings bring our knees to the floor – in worship.

Has gratitude for spiritual blessings led you into worship this past week?

Remember **worship is bringing all of who you are before all of who God is and allowing that communion to change your life.**

Has gratitude for spiritual blessings led you into worship this past week?

Our eyes on our blessings bring our knees to the floor – next step...

Our eyes on His mercies bring our lives to the altar

Let's play a game: In view of my gift, what might you offer me?

old hat, pen, Gift card, encouraging words

- Pay off your house, Kidney, Life-saving cancer drug

What if you were spiritually dead and God brought you into spiritual life?

Romans 12:1-2 – talk about four parts

1. God's mercy

Mercy is actually “mercies” - Last 11 chapters – chosen, predestined, redeemed, spirit empowered – last week

In view of this gift, what might you offer? **Consider... Good Samaritan / Unmerciful Servant**

2. Living sacrifice – Sacrifice – sacrificial system – tricky...

Unhealthy - Transactional behavior that led to superstition

Healthy - Relational behavior that led to worship

The Jewish sacrificial system was **all about acknowledging the greatness of the creator and the sinfulness of people.**

Offering a sacrifice is an act of submission – done in **honor of** or **payment to**. I give this thing because you deserve either the thing **or** my obedience of offering you the thing. **I owe you (God) something.** That's at the heart of sacrificial system.

There is a giving up, giving away, presenting of something to someone that is costly and/or honoring. That's **Sacrifice!**

What about a **living** sacrifice?

This is in contrast to all of the “normal” sacrifices which would have been **dead**. To offer **my body as a living sacrifice** is to offer my very life – my life lived out for the purposes of the one to whom I offer it. This is far more **personal** and far more **costly** than offering... a goat.

It makes sense – this is where the sacrificial system has **always been leading/pointing**. If I give God a goat... it's transactional and it leads to superstition. If I give God my life... it's relational and it leads to worship.

Paul calls this a **Spiritual act of worship**

“Spiritual” translates greek word *logikos*. Other translations: reasonable, true, proper, offered by mind and heart, intelligent – informed, understanding

Context: lots of **unreasonable sacrifices** - transaction that had turned to superstitions **And** a **Stoic mindset** that it's all about reasoning and rational thinking – that's what pleases the gods.

Paul says it is this **offering of yourself** as a living sacrifice – this is your reasonable/rational/right/informed/spiritual act of worship.

This is a provocative, meaningful, amazing statement! A **life** lived out for the purposes of the Living God is a spiritual act of worship.

Not like animals being offered. We are offering ourselves... our lives... living – ongoing. It's our life that He wants. **Why? He wants us to share in His community and proclaim His praise** – that happens through the giving of our life to following Him.

God isn't concerned with our gifts, He wants our lives.

In a way it is so much for me to give...

So much for Him to ask.

And in a way it is so little for me to give – so little for Him to ask.

... in response to every spiritual blessing!

“You mean... I'm enough.”

**In view of God's mercy offer body as living sacrifice –
How? Paul explains via a contrast.**

3. Conform

To be shaped by, pressed, molded – **yard – conformed by foot traffic**

Pattern of this world – earthly realm – selfishness, pride, materialism

Pattern of the Heavenly realm – love, worship, Glory proclaimed

How are you being shaped/conformed by an earthly realm perspective?

“**Do not be...**” – is that possible?

4. Transform

Think of a flower bud

Be transformed – I have a role to play and so does God

God's role

Applies redemption through His Spirit

My role

Renewing your mind – RenewING – means continual

Renewing my mind – means **listening** to God through His...

- Word
- Spirit
- people

How have you been renewing your mind recently?

Illustration: Conform vs be transformed with three big people and one small.

This is how you offer your body as a **living sacrifice**.

Why in the world would you do such a costly thing? Because your eyes on God's mercies and your empowered by the Spirit.

Our eyes on His mercies bring our lives to the altar.

- He has chosen you.
- He has predestined you to be adopted.
- He has redeemed you.
- He has given you His Spirit.

In view of His gifts – what might you offer Him?