

Romans 12 (12-2-10)

PRESENT YOUR BODIES!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The word *beseech* means to, "entreat; to supplicate...to ask or pray with urgency" (*Webster's*, 1828):

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I **beseech you** as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

1 Thessalonians 5:12 And we **beseech you**, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

Hebrews 13:22 And I **beseech you**, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation...

The word *by* has almost forty definitions listed in the *Oxford Dictionary*. The 36th definition provides the one that best fits Paul's usage in this first verse:

"The sense of 'means' sometimes approaches or passes into that of 'cause' or 'reason': **Because of, on account of...**in virtue of, **on the ground of...**1557, N.T. (Geneva), Matt 26:31, 'Al ye shalbe offended **by** me this night'..."

Matthew 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended **because of thee**, yet will I never be offended.
(*Authorized Version*)

"...though all men should be hurt **by thee**, yet would I not be hurt."
(*Tyndale's Version*)

Revelation 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich **by her**, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,
19...Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea **by reason of her**...

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, **by** the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...

(See also 2 Cor. 10:1, etc.)

There are three primary motivations for obedience provided to us in the Scriptures:

1. Obey because it is right (it glorifies God, etc.).
2. Obey because God will bless you for obedience, and curse you for disobedience, in this age, and when Jesus returns.
3. Obey because God has shown you great mercy, and you should be grateful, and respond in love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Luke 7:47...to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us...

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

(*Constrain*: to strain; to press; to urge; to drive, to restrain, etc.)

Titus 2:11 For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 **Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Song of Solomon 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it...

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, **as we have received mercy, we faint not;**

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty...

Mercy is that, "benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves..." (*Web.*, 1828)

Genesis 32:10 **I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth,** which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

Nehemiah 9:19 Yet thou in thy **manifold mercies** forsookest them not in the wilderness...

Psalms 89:1 I will **sing of the mercies** of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 106:7...they remembered not **the multitude of thy mercies**; but provoked him...

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the **LORD'S mercies** that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the **multitude of his mercies**.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Psalms 116:12 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?

17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,

19 In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...**

Psalms 118:27 God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: **bind the sacrifice with cords**, even unto the horns of the altar.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**.

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also **were** sometimes **foolish**, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Romans 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself...

John 8:29...for I do always those things that please him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

...**present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

Present: "To set, place or introduce into the presence or before the face of a superior...'Now there was a day when the sons of God came to *present* themselves before the Lord'...To offer; to exhibit..."

(*Web.*, 1828)

...**present your bodies...**

It is not enough to argue, like the ancient Gnostics, that we supposedly love God *in our hearts*, and that outward conduct in our bodies does not matter!:

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that **love me, and keep my commandments**.

1 John 5:3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments**: and his commandments are not grievous.

2 John 1:6 And this is love, that **we walk** after his commandments...

...present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable unto God...**

God accepts *full* surrender. He deserves our full obedience in all things:

Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or **accept** thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.

13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: **should I accept this** of your hand? saith the LORD.

14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

When unbelievers, who do not have the indwelling Spirit, and who do not have these great motivations that we possess, can obey or conform their lives, and break off addictions and bad habits, does it not expose the mockery and deception of many believers?:

Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? **do not even the publicans the same?**

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, **what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?**

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

1 Peter 2:20 For **what glory is it**, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Titus 2:5...that the word of God be not blasphemed.

1 Timothy 5:14...give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Ezekiel 16:27...the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man **love not the Lord Jesus Christ**, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

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