

PROVING GOD’S WILL–PT 1
PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE
ROMANS 12:1-2

Introduction

In all of Paul’s letters, he concludes with a list of **PRACTICAL DUTIES** based on the **DOCTRINE** he presents in the letter.

We must understand that in the **CHRISTIAN LIFE, DOCTRINE and DUTY** are to go together! i.e. Our **BELIEFS** should affect our **BEHAVIOR!** Or to put it another way, our **LEARNING** must be translated into our **LIVING!**

True **CHRISTIAN SERVICE** and **LIVING** must begin with **PERSONAL DEDICATION** to the **LORD.**

The **BELIEVER** who fails in the **CHRISTIAN LIFE** is usually the one who has first failed at the **ALTAR**, refusing to **SURRENDER COMPLETELY TO CHRIST!**

We’ve just finished our series on **UNDERSTANDING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD.** In order for us to **PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD** in our lives what we read in *verse 1 and 2* seem to be prerequisite! So let’s examine these two verses and see what it takes!

I. WHY ARE WE TO PRESENT?

“Beseech” means *“to call near; to invite or invoke”*

Paul does not say, *“I command you”* but *“I beseech you.”*

“By the mercies of God.”

i.e. Because of what **GOD** has already done for us!

We **do not SERVE CHRIST** in order to receive **HIS MERCIES**, because we already have them!

So the short answer to *“Why Are We To Present”* would be **“OUT OF OUR LOVE GOD FOR HIS MERCIES!”** So, the **MOTIVE** for the kind of **DEDICATION PAUL** calls for here is **LOVE!**

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A. We Should SERVE HIM out of LOVE and APPRECIATION For All HIS BENEFITS!

Psalm 116:12–“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?”

What BENEFITS Or MERCIES Have We Received From The LORD?: (*Let’s think on that for a few minutes...*)

1. We Have Received The MERCY Of HIS LONGSUFFERING And FORBEARANCE!

2 Peter 3:9–“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

2. We Have Received The MERCY Of HIS KINDNESS And GOODNESS!

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?”

Matthew 5:45–“. . . for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

3. We Have Received The MERCY Of HIS COMPASSION!

Lamentations 3:22–It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15–“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 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.”

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4. **We Have Received The MERCY Of HIS PROVISION FOR SALVATION!**
(Ephesians 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7)

5. **We Have Received The MERCY Of HIS FORGIVENESS!**
Colossians 1:14–“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

The “mercies Of God” summarized:

Psalm 86:15–“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

B. We Should SERVE HIM Because It Is Our REASONABLE SERVICE!

“Reasonable” means **“rational, logical.”**

i.e. It just makes sense! It is the right thing to do.

(e.g. The Andy Griffith show when Andy saved Gomer’s life.)

WHY ARE WE TO PRESENT? (The mercies of God+reasonable)

II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRESENT?

“Present” means **“to offer for acceptance.”**

It is what the **PROPHET ISAIAH** did in *Isaiah 6:8–“Here am I; send me.”*

- A. **To Present Is A Voluntary Act!**
Not forced servitude, but a willing servitude out of love.
(e.g. Deuteronomy 15:12-17)

- B. **To Present Is A Sacrificial Act!**
It costs you something. You have to give up something.

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III. WHAT ARE WE TO PRESENT? “. . .your bodies. . .”
GOD can use anything **HE** wants to accomplish **HIS PURPOSES**, and yet **HE CHOOSES TO USE US!**

Before we trusted **CHRIST**, we used our **BODY** for **SINFUL PLEASURES** and **PURPOSES**, but now that we belong to **HIM**, we should want to use our **BODY** for **HIS GLORY!**

The BELIEVER’S BODY is GOD’S TEMPLE because the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS WITHIN HIM!**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20–“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? 20For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Romans 8:9–“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

When we give ourselves to GOD, we are giving HIM what rightly belongs to HIM.

It should be our PRIVILEGE to GLORIFY CHRIST in our BODY and MAGNIFY CHRIST in our BODY!

Philippians 1:20-21

Just as **JESUS CHRIST** had to take upon **HIMSELF** a **BODY** in order to **ACCOMPLISH GOD’S WILL** on earth, so we must **YIELD OUR BODIES** to **CHRIST** that **HE** might continue **GOD’S WORK** through us.

Romans 6:13–“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

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WHY ARE WE TO PRESENT? (The mercies of God+reasonable.)
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRESENT? (To offer for acceptance.)
WHAT ARE WE TO PRESENT? (Our bodies.)

IV. HOW ARE WE TO PRESENT OUR BODIES?

A. We Are To Present Our Bodies A Living Sacrifice.

A "living sacrifice" sounds like an oxymoron.

1. We Are Not To Commit Suicide.

2. We Are To Die To Self. (Romans 6:1ff. esp. 11)

Galatians 2:20—"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 5:24—"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

1 Corinthians 15:31—"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

3. We Are To Live Unto God.

2 Corinthians 5:15—"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."

4. What Is Sacrifice?

- a. A **Sacrifice** Was To Be Offered **WHOLLY!**
(Nothing held back.)
- b. A **Sacrifice** Was To Be Offered **HOLY!**
(It was to be the best.)
- c. A **Sacrifice** Was To Be Offered For **GOD!**

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We Are To Present Our Bodies A Living Sacrifice...

B. We Are To Present Our Bodies Holy!
"Holy" means "set apart from sin and unto GOD for HIS particular purposes."

C. We Are To Present Our Bodies Acceptable Unto GOD!
Acceptable means "Fully Agreeable."

Conclusion

So, the first step in PROVING GOD'S WILL in your life is to PRESENT YOUR BODY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE!

Giving our life to GOD for HIS SAKE doesn't mean that we lose it, but rather that we save it.

Holding on to our life instead of giving it to GOD doesn't mean that we save it, but that we lose it.

Matthew 16:24-25—"24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Which will it be for us?:

- 1) Giving up the TEMPORAL for the ETERNAL...or...
- 2) Giving up the ETERNAL for the TEMPORAL.

We have to make the call! We can't have it both ways!