

5 QUESTIONS IN ROMANS #4 ROM. 12:1-2 A LIVING SACRIFICE:

INTRO:

- The last sermon on the 4th question. How then shall we live?
- These verses are an encouragement to sanctification.
- Sanctification is not imparted to us by faith like justification.
- It is not a onetime event or experience, it is a process, a process demanding effort, discipline, determination and obedience.
- **Logical:** In chapter 6 we saw a kind of wonderful logical approach to the answer to the question, how shall we then live?
- It was a kind of intellectual reckoning, a calculating, of all that God had done for us in Christ of how God dealt with sin in Adam and thus for us that we may not serve sin.
- And then what our response should be having seen this, a reckoning and a yielding of our members as servants to righteousness.
- Paul had just presented to the human race 11 chapters of the most glorious, heavenly doctrine the world has ever witnessed.
- Again, after 11 chapters of glorious doctrine and teaching, teachings on man's rebellion, his condition, the righteous judgment of God upon the Jew as well as the Gentile, the whole world is guilty before God.
- A righteousness that comes by faith as lived out in Abraham, of the death that comes upon all of mankind in Adam, of the life that comes through the free gift of Christ.
- The freedom from the old man, the old life of sin, free from the law to walk in the Spirit.
- The great saving foreknowledge of God, His predestination, His calling His justification to glorification, the truths that nothing can separate us from the love of God, Israel's rejection and removal from the Vine of Christ, the Gentiles grafting in, and the return of the Jewish people to their Messiah.
- The beauty of the gospel and its messenger, and Paul's explanation of who is Israel and that all of this Israel will be saved.
- Then this doxology at the end of chapter 11; For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen
- Here in these verses Paul, I believe lifts us to a higher plane or takes us further as we are here moved beyond the mind to "mind and emotion."
- And you can see this right at the outset... I Beseech you. He is moved in his heart to encourage them to something. He has moved from the mind to the heart, from head to heart and soul.
- He can hear him begin to cry as he declares, O the depths and the riches of God. (11:33).

- Now moved by all this Paul declares;
- **I THEREFORE BESEECH YOU**, by the mercies of God to present you bodies.
- This therefore and its exhortation coming on account of all Paul had just taught, of all we have seen of this Mighty God and what He has done for us demands, exhorts us to therefore I beseech you present your bodies..
- Now this great Apostle moves from that great colossal mind of his to his great colossal passionate heart.
- He is moved to plead for the worthiness of the great God who saved his soul 25 years earlier.
- Moved to plead that the believer would so see the beauty, the worth, the glory of the eternal God at every moment, and seeing this, to surrender body, soul, and spirit.

Let's dig into this verses word by word and get ahold of it and let it get ahold of us.

- Let's first notice as mentioned earlier, this verse follows after 11 chapters of doctrine. Paul now, after laying the foundation, moves to the practical out-working of this doctrine. (EPH 4:1)
- You see that doctrine must always precede exhortation since doctrine shows the saint his exalted position and privilege, which makes then the exhortation to a holy life a reasonable one.
- And also, in doctrine the saint is informed of the resources of grace he possesses with which to obey the exhortation.
- A true understanding, a true knowledge of doctrine will always affect my life, my behavior.
- Jesus makes this clear in scriptures like;
 - Jn. 8:31-32, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 - Jn. 17:17; Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
 - Rom. 6:17, But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered or entrusted.

BESEECH: See the heart of Paul

- **Beseech:** to call, to urge, to plead to call to one's side, or aid.

THEREFORE:

- Referencing back to an earlier statement or point.
- This "therefore" is reaching back, pointing us back, bringing our attention to things already known.
- Is he looking back to chapter 11, such as vs 30-32 (mercy)
- Or is it 33-36? For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be

repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen

- Or is it all of chapter 11?
- Or yet is it the whole epistle after vs 16 of chapter 1?
- Yes, to all.
- And because of these earlier teachings, he is moved to plead with Christians to do something, something that seemed obvious, reasonable.
- Therefore, is the springboard of beseech and mercy.

BRETHREN:

- Notice Paul's inclusiveness and tenderness.

MERCIES:

- Notice this word "mercies." It is in the plural. It is truly only one, but we have seen it, known it in a thousand moments, a thousand blessings.
- Here mercies would come to mind such as; justification, sanctification and the future glorification, all of God's sovereign mercy to the believer.
- It basically means: the Pity, or compassions of God for our condition, even though it is self-inflicted.
- Without mercy there would be no grace. God cannot bestow grace where mercy has not gone. (Perhaps we could say the reverse as well?)
- It is even God's mercy that allows us to serve Him to present our bodies.
- W.E. Vine says His mercies are the ground upon which believers are to present their bodies.
 - PS. 103: 10-11: He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
 - 13-14; As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that *we are* dust.
- These psalms also mention the response to mercy and forgiveness, that being "that God may be feared." Ps. 130:4 Reverenced.
- This glorious pity of God has been our source of justification, our source of sanctification, and will also be our future mercy for glorification.
- What Paul is saying with the word "mercy" is that in the light of all God has given us through His mercy, seeing this, knowing this, there should be an outward display of love, appreciation and devotion to Him.

PRESENT:

- To stand by or near, or at hand. To place near, to put at one's disposal
- Spoken of sacrifices or things consecrated to God.
 - See Lk. 2:22; Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord
- The word picture is a classical term used to show the laying of sacrificial animals on the altar.
- In the Levitical offerings the priest placed the offering so as to face the "most Holy Place." Thus, to signify having been placed before the Lord.
 - Used 3 x in Rom. 6:13, 16, 19

BODIES:

- If God does not have the service of our bodies, He does not have us.
- And not just a member or members, but their whole beings.
 - PS. 116:12 What shall I render to the LORD *For* all His benefits toward me?

LIVING SACRIFICE:

- Not a one-time dead sacrifice but a living daily sacrifice.

HOLY:

- Separated unto, specific. Set apart.

ACCEPTABLE:

- Pleasing, well pleasing.

REASONABLE

- Being intelligent, intentional understandably, rational, agreeable to reason.
- It is reasonable for the redeemed person to give their bodies to our holy, merciful and mighty God.

SERVICE:

- As a temple server, a Levitical serving but not as of serving a dead offering, but a living offering.
- A serving as worship. All true service to God is a worship. These 2 words can be used interchangeably.
- This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Philippians;
 - Phil. 2:17, Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

CONCLUSION:

- Now what is my response to this?
- Where in my life does God desire me to present myself as shown here?

C. T. STUDD. *If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.*