



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Our Reasonable Service!

Focus Verses: Romans 12:1-2 - ¹ 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.

Lesson Text: Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Truth About God: God calls us to build our lives upon Him.

Truth For My Life: I will build my life upon Jesus Christ.

Paul admonished believers to live their lives in light of eternity by encouraging them to present their bodies as living sacrifices to God (Romans 12:1). A person who lives a life that honors God will set a premium value on eternal things. We will refuse to conform to the system of this world, which inflates the value of fleeting things destined to be destroyed on the final Day of Judgment.

Paul reminded readers that anything God asks of us is small compared to the great work His grace has already accomplished in our lives. The grace of God should bring about profound changes in our lives. Each one of us is to offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. Our body is an instrument God uses to show His glory to the world (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Also, we should live our lives set apart from the world to keep from becoming spotted or blemished. Each of us is to live a life pleasing to God. In Paul's life, this resulted in him being "*separated unto the gospel of God*" (Romans 1:1).

Moreover, we are not to conform to the culture we live in. Everything in our lives should be characterized by the fact we are living sacrifices to God rather than the world's influence. **Today's culture, like the culture of Rome, stands against everything God considers to be good, holy, and acceptable.** Renewing our mind does more than just transform our inner person; it produces an external transformation as well. When our minds are renewed in the Holy Ghost, our lives are transformed, and we become progressively more Christlike in every way.

If we are not careful, we could become desensitized to the world's perspective and begin to think actions and attitudes are permissible that Scripture plainly condemns. Discipleship is a perfect balance of loving righteousness and hating unrighteousness. We need the renewing influence of God, the power of the Holy Ghost working in us, to keep our minds right.

God is calling us to yield ourselves to Him as our reasonable service. He is not asking us to do anything illogical or unreasonable; discipleship is reasonable. Surely, we walk by faith, but faith in the almighty God who is able to do anything is in itself reasonable. Let us yield ourselves fully to God as a living sacrifice. While a willingness to give our lives for Jesus is admirable and commendable, He is more concerned that we are willing to live our lives for Him.

The foundation of the building is Jesus Christ. We can lay no other foundation for no other foundation is as sure and strong as Jesus Himself. The building materials will vary, depending on how we live our lives. Some of the building materials will endure, while other materials will be burned up. Some materials, like gold, silver, and precious stones, can endure the final Day of Judgment when "*the fire shall try every man's work*" (1 Corinthians 3:13). Wood, hay, and straw are inadequate building materials because they are temporal. None of them are enduring elements, and none will stand the test of fire that will surely come.

Paul likened the believer's life to a construction project where various materials, ranging from gold and silver to hay and stubble, may be used. However, he pointed his readers to a coming Day of Judgment when everyone's building project would be tested by fire, and those who built their lives from perishable materials would be ashamed. **It is remarkably easy to conceal foundational spiritual problems behind the appearance that all is well when it really is not.** This construction metaphor, combined with Paul's admonishment for believers to live as sacrifices, reminds us how important it is to be careful to live each day in a way that glorifies God. When we value eternal things and build our lives around the will of God, our lives will bring glory to God as we come through every trial and test intact and unscathed.