

100. The Book of Romans 12:1-2

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

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(9-3-25)

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As we come to Chapter 12 in our study of the Book of Romans—we move from the *doctrinal* portion of this Epistle to the practical. In the first eleven chapters Paul has been focusing on *doctrine*—and now starting in Chapter 12 the focus shifts to duty.

The order is significant—*doctrine* must always precede *duty* because Christian *living* depends on Christian *learning*.

This is Paul's pattern in many of his epistles—the greatest example being in his letter to the Ephesians, where in the first 3 chapters Paul deals with *doctrine* (what I am in Christ), before spending the last three focusing on *duty* (how I live for Christ).

Now we come to the same format in Paul's epistle to the Romans where Chapters 1-11 deal with *doctrine*; and then Chapters 12-16 focus on *duty*.

- I. Introduction—1:1-17
- II. Condemnation: *The Need for God's Righteousness*—Chapters 1:18—3:20
- III. Justification: *The Explanation of God's Righteousness*— Chapters 3:21—5:21
- IV. Sanctification: *The Demonstration of God's Righteousness*— Chapters 6:1—8:39
- V. Restoration: *Israel's Reception of God's Righteousness*— Chapters 9:1—11:36
- VI. Application: *The Behavior of God's Righteousness*— Chapters 12:1—15:13
- VII. Conclusion, Greetings, and Benediction — Chapters 15:14—16:27
- VI. Application: The Behavior of God's Righteousness (12:1–15:13)**

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you [beg, plead] therefore brethren...

Sprinkled throughout the book at key points Paul uses the word '**therefore.**'

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ **Therefore** by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Here we have the "**therefore**" of condemnation, declaring that the whole world is guilty before God.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ **Therefore**, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Here Paul reveals the “**therefore**” of justification.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ There *is* **therefore** now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:1 contains the “**therefore**” of assurance.

Finally, in Romans 12:1, we have the “**therefore**” of dedication (or devotion) to God for all He has done for us.

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God...

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us
What does true dedication to God look like—well, Paul described it here and tells us that Christian dedication to God involves three steps:

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...

Every day we must, in the light of all God has done for us and especially because we now belong to Him—we must first of all “**present our bodies to God...**”

Romans 6:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

The Old Testament animal sacrifices were killed and offered to God as a form of worship—but we are to offer ourselves to God everyday as those who have died to our old lives and have been raised from the dead—as living sacrifices.

I believe that Paul had the ‘*burnt offering*’ in mind when he said this—which speaks of total *consecration* to God.

Then Paul goes on to make this statement—“**...which is your reasonable service.**” Verse 1

The NASB translates it this way—

Romans 12:1 (NASB95)

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Under the New Covenant in Christ, we as believers in Jesus have been made a “*kingdom of priests*” who don’t offer up to God animals but *ourselves* as living sacrifices.

This was always the goal of God for those called to be His servants—

Exodus 19:3–6 (NKJV)

³ And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Revelation 1:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ ...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests [some translations read: “He made us to be a kingdom of priests”] to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

One author said,

“As ‘believer-priests’, we do not come to God with the bodies of slain animals but with the spiritual sacrifice of yielded lives.”

The sacrifice of yielded lives offered daily to God encompasses—our **service** (Romans 15:16), our **praise** (Hebrews 13:15), and our **possessions** (Hebrews 13:16).

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

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

Phillips paraphrases it: “*Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.*”

The “**world**” (literally ‘age’) as used here basically refers to “*The society or system that man has built in order to make himself happy without God.*”

The Bible talks about this “*present evil age*” (Galatians 1:4) which refers to a kingdom (a fallen world system) that is antagonistic to God.

- The god and prince of this world is Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) and all fallen (unsaved) people are his *subjects*.
- He seeks to attract and hold people through “*the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.*” (1 John 2:16)

The world has its own politics, art, music, religion (humanism/naturalism), amusements, entertainments, thought-patterns, and lifestyles—all of which are simply lumped together into what we call culture.

So, at its core, spiritual warfare is a *culture war* where the devil is using this fallen world system to brainwash people (the unsaved primarily but also Christians) in an effort to get everyone to conform to his '*cultural ideologies and values*.'

Currently we see this taking place in the cultural obsession with Marxism/Communism.

Marxism is the weaker 'handicapped younger brother' of Communism—a godless system which denies the reality of the God of the Bible and replaces Him with the 'god' of government.

It's interesting that before you can get a person to embrace a new religion, those in the cults will attack a person's current belief system as false and corrupt before they indoctrinate them into a whole new religious system.

This current trend toward Communism is actually preparing people to accept the religion of the Antichrist...

Unbelievers don't really understand what's going on (unless they read the Bible or have a Christian friend, family member, or co-worker that has witnessed to them about spiritual warfare).

But behind the scenes there is a malevolent, pervasive, persuasive invisible force which the Bible calls the 'spirit of this age' (demonically driven culture) promoted by the 'god of this world' (the devil) working in the world to conform, corrupt, deceive and destroy the people of this world by pressing them into the devil's mold—getting them to conform to his agenda.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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