

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 24: Living Sacrifices: Transformed by Renewal

BIG Idea: True worship is not a song we sing but a life surrendered—offering our whole selves to God and being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Application: Because of God’s mercy, lay your whole life on the altar—body, mind, and spirit—and allow the Spirit to reshape your thoughts, actions, and desires into His will.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe25>

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) A Living Sacrifice to God

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

“All ethical teaching is ultimately grounded in some theological truth such as the nature of God, the nature of man, or the nature of salvation.” ~Jack Cottrell

“Theology in isolation promotes a barren intellectualism. Ethics apart from a theological base is impotent to achieve its goals.” ~Robert H. Mounce

Whether or not the Gospel has penetrated our hearts will be revealed by how we live.

I. Genuine Worship – Living Sacrifices (v1)

“This exhortation shows the importance of the body in itself as an authentic part of our human nature, and shows how important it is to use the body to the glory of God. It also recalls especially the teaching of chs. 6-8, that in this present stage of our redemption only our souls/spirits have been renewed; the redemption of the body awaits the day of resurrection. In the meantime, our unredeemed bodies remain the seat of sin and the source of many temptations; thus they must be constantly and consciously offered up to God as part of the process of sanctification.” ~Jack Cottrell

If He has your body, He has your whole life.

“Holiness of life rarely progresses apart from deliberative acts of the will. While sanctification is gradual in the sense that it continues throughout life, each advance depends upon a decision of the will.”

~Robert H. Mounce

We don’t bring dead animals – we bring living hearts.

“To be a ‘living sacrifice’ is to be fully at God’s disposal. It means actively, to be willing to obey God in anything he says in any area of life; and, passively, to be willing to thank God for anything he sends in any area of life.” ~Timothy Keller

Worship doesn't start with a song; it begins with surrender.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

II. A New Way of Living (v2a)

Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

1 Peter 1:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.

Colossians 3:2 (NLT)

² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

Galatians 1:4 (NLT)

⁴ Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

James 4:4 (NLT)

⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

The world presses us into its mold, but Christ reshapes us into His image.

If we look like the world, how will we ever change the world?

Conformity is easy - transformation is costly. But it's worth it!

III. A New Way of Thinking (v2b)

"be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The 'mind' is the faculty by which the soul perceives and discerns the good and true; it is the seat of intellectual and moral judgement, the powers of our moral consciousness. Thus, the renewing of the mind is the renewing of our ability to think correctly, especially about spiritual and moral matters." ~Jack Cottrell

The battle for holiness is won or lost in the mind.

What fills your mind will eventually form your life.

Romans 8:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your

mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

We don't need behavior modification – we need mind renewal.

IV. The Aim: To Know God's Will (v2c)

The more God transforms you, the clearer His will becomes.

God's will isn't a mystery map – it's life surrendered.