

August 13th – Living Sacrifices

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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.” (Romans 12:1-2)

After spending 11 chapters laying out God’s plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike, Paul turns the last 5 chapters of his epistle into a practical theology. Based on God’s covenant mercies, it is our privilege to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices. Throughout history God has been opposed to human sacrifice, even punishing his own people for slaughtering their own children. Paul is talking about something different here – being crucified with Christ and yet still living for His glory!

What does it mean to sacrifice your life for the cause of Christ? It means living “holy, acceptable to God” – living our lives in submission to His perfect will. Living a life sacrificed to Christ is “your reasonable service.” Think about it – if the Heavenly Father sacrificed His own Son for us, the very least we can do is sacrifice all of ourselves to Him. Living surrendered to God means that we’re no longer “conformed to this world” – in other words, we don’t live how everyone else is living.

Instead, we should seek to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds.” When you live your life submitted to God through prayer and the study of His Word, something amazing happens – your mind is renewed by the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, causing you to be transformed into something beautiful for the glory of God. Being a living sacrifice comes with a tremendous blessing – “that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”