

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

Romans 12:1-2 prt 33

MPS: God gave Himself for us, so we offer all of ourselves to Him.

INTRO:

Review where we have been in Romans

Chapters 1-4: Salvation by Faith Alone

Chapters 5-8: Our New Life in Christ

Chapters 9-11: God's Faithfulness in Redemptive History

Chapters 12-16: A Practical Vision of the Christian Life

Martin Luther: "This epistle [Romans] is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul.

John Calvin: "If we have gained an understanding of this Epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture."

- Romans has made a great impact on the world, and my prayer is that it will for you as well.
- It was written by the apostle Paul to the church in Rome.
- The church in Rome was most likely planted by converts from the day of Pentecost; it was possibly one of the most diverse churches at the time, composed of both Jewish and gentile Christians.
- He's writing from Corinth during a three month stay. We see this in Acts 21. Phoebe delivers the letter from Corinth, to the Roman Christians – what a privilege. Tertius was the scribe penning the letter – so this is just a reminder God uses people (plural) to deliver HIS word.

What is the purpose of Romans?

- Paul's never been to this church neither had he planted the church.
- In AD 49 Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. This is consistent with Luke's account of Priscilla and Aquila being forced out of Italy because of Claudius's edict (Acts 18:1–2) and arriving in Corinth to meet Paul.
- Eventually, the Jewish Christians returned to Rome when Claudius died in AD 54. In between this time the Roman church became a mainly Gentile church, so when the Jews

returned, the church became fractured along ethnic lines. You can imagine the issues. The leadership was mainly Gentile.

- The meetings were not in synagogues but house churches.
 - The Jewish believers would have found many cultural practices offensive.
 - Paul addresses these sorts of social and ethnic issues in Romans 9–11 and 14–15.
 - Therefore, there was probably a Gentile majority in the church, with significant changes in leadership and practice, necessitating a unity-building letter.
- What unifies the people in the church? What's powerful enough to create a real *family* out of different people—people who shouldn't have *any* reason, according to the world's view, to be friends, much less *family*? It's the *gospel*!
 - The whole book of romans is Gospel saturation – what the gospel is and all the implications of it.
 - Answer: The purpose of Romans is: Only the gospel will bring unity to Jews and Gentiles in the church of Rome.

Vs 1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present [offer NIV] your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

OPEN:

What messaging was behind your conversion to Christianity or your interest in being a Christian?

- Be a Christian and God will give me a good life, OR keep me from having a bad life,
- Be a Christian and God will get me out of this mess,
- Be a Christian so I can have a place to belong,
- Be a Christian because that is my family's heritage to upkeep (It's the way I was raised)
- Be a Christian because then I can have/stay with my girlfriend/boyfriend because he/she is a Christian
- Andrew Huberman and other health gurus say I need to reduce stress for a long good life and meditation works – now let me pick a religion like I would pick out a new car. just a means to be more spiritual in order to have a balanced life.
- Be a Christian because I'm afraid of judgment at the end of this age and just in case this stuff is real, I want to be saved from it.

There is only one message that causes you to offer all of yourself to HIM – it's the gospel.

- “The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” Tim Keller

Here is the kicker: Everyone offers themselves to something. What are you giving your life to? What alter have you sacrificed your life on in order to have what you think it promises?

- Career or Success: Devoting life to climbing the corporate ladder or achieving fame.
 - Money or Materialism: Pursuing wealth, possessions, or a luxurious lifestyle.
 - Relationships: Giving all emotional energy to a partner, family, or friends at the expense of other callings.
 - Pleasure or Entertainment: Living for parties, gaming, or constant leisure.
 - Power or Control: Seeking dominance over others or situations for personal gain.
 - Self-Image or Approval: Offering time and effort to maintain a perfect reputation or social media presence.
 - Ideology or Politics: Devoting life to a cause, movement, or political agenda.
 - Comfort or Security: Prioritizing safety and ease over risk or faith-driven action.
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- Notice none of those are bad alters. They just make bad gods.
 - Your career, success, money, entertainment are not bad but they are powerless to save you.
 - Power, control, self-image, approval have their place but they are powerless to love you.
 - Politics, comfort, security are not wrong or even bad desires, but they are powerless to give you hope.

Yet we think somehow if we give ourselves to them, we will be satisfied and they are all powerless to satisfy you – only One can truly satisfy you.

God gave Himself for us, so we offer all of ourselves to Him.

Romans 6:16–18 (ESV) **16** *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

“I’m good with you being my Savior, but I don’t want you as my Lord – I reserve that for me.”

1. Give your body to God as your worship.

Vs 1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present [offer NIV] your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

- Therefore = Chapters 1-11 are all about God's mercy to all who will come to him trusting Jesus for salvation.
- Appeal = parakaleo which means help, encourage, comfort, and sometimes translated 'beg.' Let me help you, let me bring encouragement and comfort to you – I beg of you...
- God gave you salvation at no cost to you – now, however, from this point forward, it will cost you 'all of you.'
- It doesn't matter how I say it, what great story to illustrate it, how much passion I can muster, how eloquently I articulate it... God has to tell you... AND HE DOES.
- "Give me you... all of you"... food you eat, sexuality, clothes you wear (too revealing, identity), work (love you neighbor), family (disciple), hobbies (thankful and glorify God), entertainment, shopping, spending, money, margin time, down time, your behaviors, your lips, your tongue, your eyes and ears, your hands, your feet, all of you.
- "You can trust me with all of you because I am merciful, I am good, I love you, my eyes are on you. "
- A sacrifice in the OT was given to satisfy God – it represents God's willingness to take a substitute on behalf of a sinner
- If you are a Christian you are saved from God (from his just wrath), you are saved by God (by his sacrifice) and you are saved for God (for his delight and praise).
- This sacrifice of your body is NOT a sacrifice for sin... that is done. It is a sacrifice of worship

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV) *19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

- Can I tell you that offering yourselves to God is more than a one-time offering? Its ongoing. AND... it IS GLORIOUS.

2. Give your mind to God for your renewal

Vs 2 *Do not be conformed to this [the pattern of NIV] world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- Conformed = pattern of the world
- Being transformed is not a one-time thing – its ongoing

What excuses do you keep throwing up for you not to be transformed?

Past circumstances
Relationship debacles
Physical hinderances
Depression

“There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan” CS Lewis.

- The whole universe (and beyond) is a contested arena in a cosmic battle between God’s authority and Satan’s rebellion. Every aspect of life—time, space, thoughts, actions—is either aligned with God’s will or subject to Satan’s influence. There’s no middle ground where we can remain uninvolved or unaffected.
- The gospel’s role (Romans 1-11) is the decisive claim on our lives. God’s sacrifice through Christ counters Satan’s counterclaims, inviting us to offer every “square inch” back to Him in worship and renewal.
- I guess what I’m saying is that EVERYONE has offered themselves on the altar of SOMETHING - there is no neutral ground. We are all already living surrendered lives... to something or someone. Jesus is the only one who frees us from being slaves at the altar of world things.. and in Him is true freedom leading to ‘spiritual worship’
- How do I get out of this rut? Offer yourself to HIM and renew your mind in Him.
- How do I renew my mind? Set your mind on HIM in every way you know how (Word, prayer, community, fasting, serving, giving, etc)

Romans 8:5–8 (ESV) **5** *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

- The transformed mind is grateful – the pattern of the world is entitled
- The transformed mind is secure – the pattern of the world is insecure
- The transformed mind loves others (others focused) – the pattern of the world is self focused.

- The transformed mind says ‘what can I give’ – the pattern of the world is ‘what can I get’ ... What can I do today to add value to someone else’s life?

Renewed minds illustration: battery packs exist to power devices, but they have to continually get renewed in order to bless others. What if you thought/lived in such a way you were more like a battery pack than a device? Your purpose would be to add value to others, not always looking for secondary purposes – but ONE purpose. (In work, family, church, community, neighborhood, friends,) You know why so many people are not happy? They are always on low power because they live for themselves (pattern of this world) rather than giving power to others (renewed mind). Do something kind for others, encourage others, bless others, give something to others,

CONCLUSION:

Hebrews 10:12 (ESV) 12 *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,*

- Hebrews 10:12 tells us that Christ offered a single sacrifice for sins—for all time—and sat down at God’s right hand, His work complete. The pressure’s off—your salvation isn’t earned by your effort but secured by His

1 Peter 2:5 (ESV) 5 *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- Yet 1 Peter 2:5 calls us, as living stones, to be built into a spiritual house, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus. How do these fit?
- Because He gave Himself fully for you on that cross, you can now offer yourself fully to Him—not out of guilt or duty, but out of gratitude and love.
- “We’re more sinful than we ever dared believe, yet more loved than we ever dared hope.”
- So, as you walk out today, ask: What am I holding back? Lay it down at the feet of the One whose sacrifice makes your surrender not just possible, but beautiful. Offer Him all—your body, your mind, your life—because His offering for you is the bedrock of it all.

God gave Himself for us, so we offer all of ourselves to Him.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. What is the message behind your salvation? (gospel or world – God or self)

2. What does giving yourself completely to God look like?
3. Take a moment to discuss what a transformed life looks like (by the renewing of your mind) and how do you have your mind renewed?