

J.J.

SAVED. SO NOW WHAT? (Part 2)

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12: 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

INTRODUCTION :

An airplane was about to crash. There were 4 passengers on board, but only 3 parachutes.

The 1st passenger was an NBA player said, 'I am the best NBA basketball player. My team and my millions of fans need me, and I can't afford to die.' So he took the 1st pack and left the plane.

The 2nd passenger, was the CEO of a huge bank said, 'I am the CEO of a huge bank, economies will crash if I die. so my people don't want me to die.' He took the 2nd pack and jumped out of the plane.

The 3rd passenger, and old pastor said to the 4th passenger, a 10-year-old schoolboy, 'My son, I am old and don't have many years left, you have more years ahead so I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute.'

The little boy said, 'That's okay Pastor, there's a parachute left for you. The Bank CEO took my backpack.

Today, we will continue from last week. We were talking about what a Christian needs to do after he is saved.

Last week, we discussed the church is very good at sharing and telling the gospel. But a lot of people think that the gospel ends when we tell people that it is only through faith in Christ alone that we are saved AND THEN, we are not able to teach people how to live the gospel, as if, after being saved, you're just waiting for Jesus Christ to come back or go home to our Lord and be with him in heaven. **But what about the in-between?**

- I. RESPOND WITH LOVE
- II. RELINQUISH YOUR CONTROL
- III. RENEW YOUR MIND

Last week, we discussed that a Christian after he or she is saved, needs to respond to God and to others with love.

I. RESPOND WITH LOVE

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,

As explained, when we see "therefore", it means there is something before. **What is the context?** It's Romans Chapters 1-11

And we jetstreamed through the entire Romans 1-11

Romans 1-3 : The importance of preaching the Gospel because it shows our true condition as sinners... that no one is good, not even one and we deserve God's wrath

Romans 3: 10 "There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

*they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."*

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

But God loves us that He gave His one and only Son to pay for our sins.

Romans 5: 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

So because of Jesus Christ, we are now righteous before God and not condemned.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

God gave the Holy Spirit in you which gives you the power to live the Christian life.

Roman 8: 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

And we can now call God our Father because

Romans 8: 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

All of this is because of God's grace, we have done nothing to deserve this.

*Romans 9: 15 "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

All of this, we can have by faith alone and not by what we have done.

Romans 10: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

THINKING ABOUT ALL OF THIS, THE REACTION OF PAUL IS TO WORSHIP – DOXOLOGY!

Romans 11 : 33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

*35 "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"*

*36 For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

*12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God's mercy**,
(oiktirmos : compassion; bowels of mercy, this is an emotion)*

So how do we respond to God's love and mercy and grace?

The response is love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 16: 14 Do everything in love.

And everything else, like giving thanks to Him, giving Him glory, it's a "love" response.

That's the reason why a once famous apologist said, "Love is the Supreme Ethic" (Ethic means, moral conduct)

TO CONTINUE :

II. RELINQUISH CONTROL

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

For us to understand this, we need to understand how the Christian Jews (Paul was writing to the Jews who became Christians) would understand it during their time.

First, we need to understand what Sacrifice means to them : To the Jews, it is the act of offering a lamb as an offering for the forgiveness of sin. That lamb was to be killed in the altar as a sacrificial offering.

This is how Abraham understood, remember when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Genesis 22 : 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

But you know the rest of the story.

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

And then of course, God provided a substitute sacrifice.

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

During the Passover, they sacrificed something to the Lord.

Exodus 12 : 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

God provided the Levitical law to sacrifice

Leviticus 1: 3 "If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect. You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord. 4 You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you. 5 You are to slaughter the young bull before the Lord, and then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

The Jews immediately knows the word “sacrifice” means offering something to God by slaying or killing them.

All of these is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ! (Hebrews 10:1)

- With Abraham, God was the one who provided a substitute sacrifice that will please Him.
- In the Passover, the sacrifice saved them from death
- In the Levitical Law, the sacrifice is made for the forgiveness of sin.

This is the reason why Jesus was called by John the Baptist when he saw Him.

John 1:29 Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

This is the reason why Jesus had to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin.

But in the end, a sacrifice is something that has to be killed and offered to the Lord so that we will be saved.

And Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice once and for all.

Hebrews 10: 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

SO TODAY, We don't have to offer or kill anything to God for our sins to be forgiven. Jesus has been sacrificed for us.

Remember, even the

Etymology : *thysia* (thoo-see-ah) “sacrifice” root word is “thyo” (thoo’o) which means to slay, to kill or to slaughter.

NOW Knowing that the word “sacrifice” means something needs to be “killed” or “die” to be offered to God. What does THIS MEAN?

*to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God*

Remember, nothing has to be killed because we are to offer ourselves as a “living” sacrifice.

Ice-breaker : It almost sounds like “living dead” or “walking dead”

It's like an oxymoron “hot ice” or “cold sun”

What does it mean to be a “living sacrifice?” I'll tell you in the end in one sentence.

How do we offer ourselves as a “living sacrifice”?

to offer your bodies

There are two Greek words for “body”

1. body “sarx” literal flesh and blood
2. But the one used here is “soma”, it's not only the flesh and blood but your entire being, your will, your wants, your heart, your rights and etc....IT MEANS THE ENTIRE YOU.

It's saying to the Lord,

“Lord, before, I wanted to be in control of everything. I wanted to protect my own rights. But from now on, I am relinquishing control of my life and giving it to your capable, mighty, loving and gentle hands.

How does this happen when you offer your entire being to the Lord?
as a living sacrifice

Remember, sacrifice has to do with death.

It is what Jesus said,

Matthew 16 : 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

I love the New Living translation

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."

I believe this is the single cause of frustration but at the same time discovery of joy when they understand this.

Listen carefully : We get frustrated with others and with God, when our way is not followed.

It's either my way or the highway. But as a follower of Christ, what we want is God's way.

Example : Let's talk about our own bodies. The world dictates and our flesh dictates to give in to the lust of the flesh, that's why premarital sex is accepted nowadays. We want our own way. But we know God's way is that our bodies should only belong to our husband or to our wife. And that's why we say to the Lord, "Lord, in this situation, I offer you my body." IT STARTS WITH A DECISION.

And how do we give up our way....

take up your cross

I have explained this to the church on what taking up your cross mean. It's not about carrying your problems. God has said to "Cast your cares unto me..." But people during that time, when they see a man who is carrying a cross, it means that man is on his way to death. This means, to take up your cross means, to continually kill yourself, not physically of course, but in your own wants, your own desires knowing that what God wants and desires for you is the best.

This the reason why what we offer is ourselves... a living sacrifice. That's why Paul said in Philippians and Galatians...

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Illustration : I took a video of this swing when I visited the Philippines. There was a time in my family, where the kids were still small. We have Zak who was and Bexy who was 5 years old. We were kicked out from where we were living and was driving at 3 a.m. We didn't have a roof over our head. I have no job and only had a car. It was one of our toughest times. I thought that's going to be it. So we went to my mom's house to stay there for a while. I thought I was going to rest. But then that morning, Zak and Bexy went to the playground. After a few minutes, Zak was running saying that Bexy got hurt and I saw my Tatay carrying Bexy with blood all over her face. What happened is she jumped from the swing and the metal chair hit her forehead opening up a big gash. So we had to run to the hospital and then I was receiving text from people, threatening to do harm on me. After they go Bexy stitched, we went back to my mom's house and I looked up to heaven and said to God, "What are you doing to me? Just kill me!" And deep within my heart, I knew God spoke to me and said, "That's what I am doing." And I realized that is how God works.

Now, we have to remember that offering ourselves to the Lord, is not limited to the negative side.

For example : I won't do this and that... NO! You will end up being legalistic. Of course, we will not sin but we will also offer ourselves to be used by God.

Look at this...

holy and pleasing to God

Etymology : hagas "holy" consecrated...

The problem with people when they hear the word "holy", they immediately connect it with people with white clothes or robes that are not speaking or are very mild manner....

But we have to remember, when God means holy, it is someone who is separated from the world

Again :

Hebrews 10: 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

In short, **GOD SEPARATED YOU ALREADY FROM THE WORLD FOR HIMSELF!!!**

Remember, God owns our bodies already...

1 Corinthians 6:19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,

Now but to offer our bodies, as a living sacrifice, *holy and pleasing*... it means

We are giving control to God to use our bodies (our entire being), our lives to be used in His kingdom.

Quote : "In salvation we are not only saved from sin and damnation; we are saved unto holiness" R.C. Sproul

This is the positive side of offering our bodies unto holiness. It's not only avoiding sin but offering our bodies to be used by God.

And this is where some Christians don't understand. They think, just as long as I don't sin, I'm a good person, I don't quarrel with other people, then that's enough... and I'll just wait until Jesus Christ comes back again.

No, we need to offer ourselves to be used by God for His glory!

RUSTED METAL TO SHARP KNIFE Illustration : It's like you see a metal object that is full of rust, you saved it from rust by cleaning it, sanding it and then you now put it into fire so that you can shape it and you shape it into a knife but still it will need sharpening and once it's sharp, you put it somewhere, BUT WHAT GOOD IS A SAVED AND SHARPENED KNIFE UNLESS it to cut meat or vegetables for cooking to feed yourself and the people you love.....THAT'S OFFERING OUR BODIES TO HOLINESS.

We do things out of love, we offer our bodies and just watch God take over your life but you have to offer it.

Does this mean we have to go into full-time ministry? Unless, God has called you to do that, yes. But you can offer your body to the Lord wherever you are.

Illustration : Most of you know Tim Tebow,

The story begins with Tebow in his college football years. It was 2009 and he was weeks away from competing in the highly televised national championship football game.

Tebow said God led him to write John 3:16 under his eyes for all the world to see while he played.

"The next six weeks leading up to the game I was really agonizing and contemplating what verse and God kept bringing up to my heart and my head John 3:16 which is the essence of our Christianity. It's the essence of our hope," Tebow said

After winning the championship game he found out something incredible happened- during the game:

94 million people Googled John 3:16

"Honestly my first thought was 'How do 94 million people not know John 3:16?'" Tebow said. "I was just so humbled by how big the God is that we serve."

But that's not where the story ends.

Fast-forward three years to 2012. Tebow is a Denver Bronco playing the Pittsburgh Steelers in the playoffs, and after the Broncos won, he headed into the post-game press conference when his public relations representative stopped him in his tracks.

"He says, 'Timmy, did you realize what happened?' I was like, 'Yeah, we just beat the Steelers. We're going to play the Patriots.' And he was like, 'No, do you realize what happened?'" Tebow shared.

"He said, 'It's exactly three years later from the day that you wore John 3:16 under your eyes,'" Tebow continued. "I was like, 'Oh, that's really cool.'"

"He said, 'No, I don't think you realize what happened. During the game you threw for 316 yards, your yards per completion were 31.6, your yards per rush were 3.16, the ratings for the night we're 31.6, and the time of possession was 31.06 and during the game 91 million people google John 3:16 and it's the number one trending thing on every platform,'" Tebow shared.

"I was just standing there in the hallway about to do this press conference just thinking that that night was about a football game. It really wasn't... we serve such a big God," he continued.

Tebow believes God did something miraculous that night.

"The God that we serve is a God of miracles," he said. "I just have to be willing to step out and say, 'Here you go, God, I'm going to give you my fish and my loaves of bread and watch what he does with it.'"

Brothers and sisters, offer your life to the Lord and just watch what he does with it.

So let God take control of your life, your wants, your desires, and you let Him use you for His glory, that's the thing that pleases Him.

holy and pleasing to God

But to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, takes faith... It's saying to the Lord, "Lord, I put my full trust in you. You are in total control of my life."

It's like this.

The Glove Illustration (Pastor Bryan Wilkerson ; Grace Chapel) : A glove on the table without a hand on it is just there... it's not being used. But it is only useful when a hand is inside the glove.

So imagine that the glove is us and the hand is the Holy Spirit. If we offer the glove to the hand, that's what you call being filled by the Spirit... it means you are allowing the Holy Spirit control you...take over. That's the meaning of "being filled"...it's nothing mystical. It's just allowing the hand, in this instance God, to take full control of the glove... you.

That's why Paul says in Galatians

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

This is the reason why I love the song, The Potter's hand

Beautiful Lord, wonderful saviour

I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hands

Crafted into Your perfect plan

You gently call me, into Your presence

Guiding me by, Your Holy Spirit

Teach me dear Lord

To live all of my life through Your eyes

I'm captured by, Your Holy calling

Set me apart

I know You're drawing me to Yourself

Lead me Lord I pray

Take me, Mold me

Use me, Fill me

I give my life to the Potter's hands

Hold me, Guide me

Lead me, Walk beside me

I give my life to the Potter's hand

And when we do this... then we are truly worshipping God.

this is your true and proper worship.

It's because some Christians think, worship is going to church on Sunday, singing a few songs, listening to the Word of God and then going home, you're the same, you still want what you want...do what you want to do and have no interest in being used by God...

No, worship is offering our bodies to the Lord, relinquishing control and allowing Him to take control of our lives and using our bodies to be used for His kingdom and for His glory....THAT IS TRUE AND PROPER WORSHIP.

Now here's my challenge : What is that part of you that hasn't been sacrificed to the Lord?

Is it your mouth? How you gossip? Do you still curse? How you speak? Is it your eyes? (Just like Job said, that he made a covenant with his eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. Job 31) Is it your temper?

What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? It is to die to one's self and live our life for Jesus.

Hallelujah!

Prayer of Offering

1. What do you want to relinquish control before God?
2. Offer yourself to the Lord.

Next week : What does it mean to “renew your mind”

S.G.D.