

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 12 PART 1

*“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 NKJV).

When we see the word “therefore” in a passage of Scripture, it should always remind us to review what the “therefore” is there for! In this case, it is pretty clear that we are to reflect on the fact that God, in His great wisdom, has provided salvation to sinful man. Moreover, the method by which He accomplished (and is accomplishing) His plans employed processes beyond human understanding. For this reason, Paul (upon exhaustive effort to explain) exclaimed, *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”*

Harkening back to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> chapters, we recall that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This fact is the hope of all believers! We have discovered that the Law was the ministry of death and condemnation—and could not make one righteous. Moreover, we learned that inasmuch as we are still living in the physical body, and that the believer is suffering the present distress as sojourners in *“this body of death”* (see Romans 7:13–25), the believer is being quickened and empowered to live righteously in this present age and condition. That said, we are also told that our victory or “accomplishments” are not through human effort—but by the life of Christ manifested from within. We have learned that believers have been called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by the work of God—in opposition to the human effort, will, or work! It is God who is at work in us both to will and to do for His own good pleasure (see Philippians 2:13).

One might wonder if all Paul had written up to this point in Romans was His introduction to the practical application he now gives attention to, or, if the “therefore” is simply a segue to the response he requests of believers. Either way, it doesn’t matter! God has saved the believer and the believer’s reasonable response should be willing and joyful worship—service—surrender. Thus he wrote, *“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).

There are many things to consider as we enter this new section of “orthopraxy” (the study of our behavior, practice, or lifestyle):

- 1) The *“holy”* nature of our development as *“good and acceptable and perfect”* to God through the sanctification of the Spirit by *“the mercies of God.”*
- 2) The *“living sacrifice”* we are enabled to offer God through redemption we have in Jesus.
- 3) The *“reasonable service”* (worship) as empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- 4) The *“renewing of [our] minds”* as a process in maturity through revelation in the word of God.
- 5) How being *“conformed to this world”* harms the testimony and effectiveness of the believer.

I Love you all,

Pastor Paul