

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 12:1, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”**

We do not use some of the same language today that was used in the “Kings English” as it was translated from the original text. The word “beseech” is not in my daily vocabulary. It relates to all those who read it, a sense of urgency in which Paul desires for the Roman brethren to pay close attention. If he wanted this sense of urgency, then why and what was it that he wanted such an immediate response in their actions? Beginning with chapter 12 of Romans, Paul expresses what has been termed as “practical godliness”, or, walking uprightly, honestly, and righteously before God in keeping His commandments. These “righteous works” were not to get them to heaven, but were to be done because of the righteous works which Jesus did for us which we could not do for ourselves. This is indicated by the next statement in this verse, **“by the mercies of God”**. If we are to be doers of the word and not just hearers (James 1:22), then we need to know what to do. Paul says, in answering the “What”, is to **“present your bodies a living sacrifice.”** This declaration is in direct opposition to what the Jewish law had been teaching concerning the sacrifices being offered in the temple worship. Now, Christ has come and has been offered as the ultimate sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary to God in our stead, therefore, in answering “Why”, the New Testament followers of Christ are to learn that presenting our bodies as the sacrifice in service to God (works) are not for obtaining heaven, but are to be done to give praise, honor, and glory to His great name. Paul is writing this letter to the **“brethren”** at Rome that had already been born of the Spirit of God, had heard the gospel preached, and needed strong admonition to stand against the unbelievers among them. What peace and comfort it must have been to these “Roman Brethren” to hear this news from Paul that their efforts in serving the Lord would be seen as **“holy, acceptable unto God”** if done in the proper way and for the right reason. How I wish that

more brethren and sisters today could see that the importance is not to be acceptable to man, but acceptable unto God (pleasing). When I was able to please my mother in something I did, it made me at rest with my soul. Even more so is the peacefulness my soul feels in knowing our heavenly Father is pleased with our meager service to His great name. Jeremiah (10:6), concerning His name, **“O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.”** When we are blessed to feel His presence among us, we can know that He is pleased and merciful to us sinners. All that we do in the service of God is but our **“reasonable service”**. We are not to be exalted, nor receive any accolades. All the praise, honor, and glory is to go to God as David said, **“I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies”** (Psalm 18:3). I beseech you brothers and sisters to Think about it!