

Lesson 1: Your Reasonable Service

The Lord is so good to us! He does not just give us a bunch of commands in the Bible with no guidance as to how to go about doing them. Quite the contrary! The deeper we dig into God's Word, the more treasures we dig up that help us further understand the meaning of other verses. The Bible truly is a book like no other!

Read Romans, chapter twelve. This chapter of the Bible will be the basis of this study, though we will spend much time studying other verses in the Bible as well. It is recommended that you have on-hand a dictionary (I highly recommend Noah Webster's 1828 version) and concordance. (My personal favorite is Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. The side benefit is that these two hardcover books, used together, will help to tone your arm muscles as you reach for them each day!)

In the space below, copy Romans 12:1

What does "reasonable service" mean? "Reasonable" means "just," or "acting in conformity to reason." Basically, "reasonable service" means that it is only reasonable, or right, that we do this, as God deserves it from us.

So, if it is only right for us to present our bodies "a living sacrifice," let's find out what that means.

In your own words, describe what you think it means to present your body "a living sacrifice" to God.

Back in Bible times, when an animal was sacrificed to God, what had to happen to the animal? It had to die, of course.

When we present our bodies "a living sacrifice," God is not calling us to die physically, but to die to self.

Another way to word this is to "deny ourselves." In other words, we "deny," or "refuse to acknowledge or yield to," our own will. We choose to submit completely to His will for our lives instead.

What are some ways you can do this in your everyday life?

Read Matthew 16:24 - 27.

Copy verse 24 in the space below:

What does Jesus Christ say we must do if we are to come after, or follow, Him?

So ... back to Romans 12:1 - It is our "reasonable service" to present our bodies as "living sacrifices" to the Lord, submitting fully to His will for us, for He deserves no less from us.

How else does Romans 12:1 tell us we are to present our bodies to the Lord?

Define these words below:

holy -

acceptable -

Looking at these two words (holy and acceptable) and their definitions, we see that God not only wants us to choose to submit our WILL to Him, but also for us to present ourselves to Him as "set apart for sacred use" and "pleasurable" unto Him.

Does God take any pleasure in sin?

Then should we?

Lesson 2: Separation From the World

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18.

Copy 2 Corinthians 6:17 in the space below:

"Separate," in a biblical sense as this, means, "divided from the rest; distinct; not united."

In context then, this verse (2 Cor. 6:17) is talking about unbelievers - what we would call "the world," or those who are "worldly." In verse 17, there is a call for followers of Christ to come out from among the world, and be distinct, not united with them, and disconnected.