



8/8/25

On this week's episode of the Chosen and Cherished podcast, we talked about why God calls us to pay much closer attention to what we've learned from His word... and let me tell you... it's totally worth it! If you'd like to listen, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

Romans 12:1-8 ~

Vs. 1-2 ~ Whelp, I see a "therefore." So what's it there for? Romans 11:33-36 tells me why Paul is appealing to me... The riches and depth of God's wisdom and knowledge are so immeasurable that I can't even comprehend them. I can't know the fullness of what He's thinking about because His intelligence is so far beyond imagination that I can't wrap my mind around it. Though I've TRIED to be His counselor, He doesn't need my wisdom! He has a fuller, infinite perspective that my small, finite mind can't compare with. He owes me absolutely nothing. All things are from Him. All His good purposes are accomplished through Him. All things are FOR His glory... forever.

Therefore... Paul appeals, urges, and encourages all believers, brothers and sisters in Christ, to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." He makes this appeal "by the mercies of God." In other words, because God is so compassionate toward us even though we can't comprehend the massiveness of who He is, Paul urges us to offer ourselves to God. There is no need to be a dying sacrifice to Him... Jesus did that FOR me. He calls me to be a living sacrifice... to offer myself to God wholly and completely. This makes sense.

When I consider ALL God has done for me, knowing full well that I could not survive without Him, it makes total sense that I would live the rest of my days on earth and into eternity for His honor. God sees my pittance of an offering to Him as holy and pleasing. That's mind blowing.

Paul says that being a living sacrifice to God is my "spiritual worship" according to the ESV Bible. The Greek gives a deeper insight into what genuine worship is. The Greek says being a

living sacrifice to Him is my "reasonable service." So what is genuine worship? It is not just honoring God with my lips... it is honoring Him with my actions as well. To truly worship God, I will serve Him. I worship who or what I serve.

So... I do what I do because I think what I think because I want what I want because I worship what I worship. Vs. 2 is going to tell me the difference between being conformed to the world and being transformed by the Lord.

*If I DO... conform myself to the world, it is because ~
I THINK... this is reasonable. It gets me something... because ~
I WANT... something the world has to offer... satisfaction of "the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and pride of life... which are passing away" (1 John 2:16-17), because ~
I WORSHIP... SELF. I sacrifice for SELF. I serve SELF.*

*But... if I DO allow the Holy Spirit to TRANSFORM my mind, then ~
I THINK... differently. I think it makes sense to serve the Lord, because ~
I WANT to be closer to Him than I want anything else, because ~
I WORSHIP... the LORD. I live as a sacrifice to the LORD. I serve the LORD.*

I cannot do this on my own. My flesh will fight against my sacrifice to Him. I remember reading a book that describes the constant battle all believers face... the battle between our flesh and our spirit, our old dead self and our new living self. The Holy Spirit works with our spirit to help us stop crawling off the altar (as living things can do). The devil works with our flesh to drive us to crawl off the altar (because he hates us... let me not be deceived).

That's why I have to remember who God is in all His wisdom, power, and love... so that I can set my mind on Him and present myself to Him as a living sacrifice... and the Holy Spirit renews my mind... one degree of glory to the next... so that it no longer wants the things of the world. The more I offer myself to God, the more He helps me prove out that HIS will is good and pleasing and perfect. And the things of the world are bad and bring misery and imperfection. O Lord, help me not to crawl off the altar of Your grace!!!

Vs. 3-8 ~ Offering myself to God changes my motivation.

Vs. 3 ~ Offering myself to God changes the way I think about myself. Instead of comparing myself to those I deem less than me... or even more than me... I compare myself to the holiness of God. I acknowledge that there is no comparison. He is so far beyond my worth that it can't be measured. His COMPASSION is so great that my only response is to bow to Him in worship and service.

Instead of trying to measure up to something I could never measure up to, I think soberly. I consider the incredible faith God has given to me from His generosity. I no longer need to do things to feel like I matter. I already matter to God. Jesus proved His good and pleasing and perfect will for me by dying on the cross and liberating me from condemnation.

Vs. 4-5 ~ Offering myself to God changes the way I think about others. Instead of seeing them as my competition, I see US together as members of the body of Jesus Christ. Instead of comparing the purposes God has for me with the purposes He has for them, I realize that Jesus is the Head of this body, and we each have a role in helping the body grow so that "it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:16). We can't love each other while we're trying to one up each other.

When I conform myself to the world, I view others as my competition... and I accuse God of loving others more than me if He gives them what I think I should have... I treat God as though He owes me... I act as though I know better than Him. Nothing good comes from thinking this way, and it's all a lie.

When I allow the Lord to transform my life by the renewing of my mind, I view others as brothers and sisters in Christ... with each of us being equally loved by God. God has SO MUCH BETTER for His body of believers when we allow Him to renew our minds... to grow us in LOVE... to prove out that His ways are truly good and pleasing and perfect.

Vs. 6-8 ~ Offering myself to God changes how and why I serve. God has graciously given me gifts that serve His purpose in building up the body of Christ. I would have no gifts without His generosity. Fulfilling the purpose the Lord has given me is more satisfying than anything else I could do. But I can use His gifts with right motivation (being transformed to have God's heart and mind), or I can use them with wrong motives (conforming to the desires and pride of the world).

If my gift is prophecy, speaking forth the truth of the word...

- *Right motives are driven by faith in Jesus.*
- *Wrong motives are driven by pride, using my knowledge of scripture to make others think I'm superior to them.*

If my gift is serving...

- *Right motives are driven by wanting to help others in their time of need for the glory of God.*
- *Wrong motives are to help them to make myself look good or feel better... to earn their approval.*

If my gift is teaching...

- *Right motives are driven by a desire to use what I know to encourage others in their faith.*
- *Wrong motives are... yep... to make myself look good.*

In all the gifts God gives, the gift is wasted if I do it out of pride rather than humility and faith.

I have learned this the hard way. I have learned the misery of fighting for SELF. And yet, I know I still have more to learn. O Lord, I know that I NEED to offer myself as a living sacrifice to You, both for Your glory and my good. Please change my motivation so that everything I do is done for You. Let it impact my thoughts, feelings, and actions so that I do what honors You, I think what honors You, I want what honors You, and I wholeheartedly worship You.