

The Sacrificed Life

*Romans 12:1 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

I want you to notice how Paul sets a context of MERCY.

- *By the mercies of God*
- One translation says, *in view of the mercies of God.*
- Another says, *through the mercies of God.*

A holy, pleasing, acceptable life before God has to be built on something, it doesn't come from nothing. And, the beginning of that something is... God's Mercy.

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**...*

"slain before the foundation of the world" Rev 13:8.

*1 Corinthians 5:7, "... Christ, our Passover lamb, has been **sacrificed**."*

*Hebrews 10:12 ESV "When Christ had offered for all time **a single sacrifice** for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."*

*Galatians 1:3,4 NIV Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4 who gave himself** for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will (plan) of our God and Father.*

The words "***gave himself***" came alive in my Spirit when I read it.

His sacrifice was a self-giving act of love.

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give His life** a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45 nkjv).*

*1 Peter 2:24 ESV **He himself** bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

*Ephesians. 5:1,2 Therefore **be imitators** of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and (here it is again) **gave himself up for us**, a fragrant **offering** and **sacrifice to God**.*

THIS IS MERCY and now in view of **the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** (back to Rom 12:1)

"The body is given to us to make visible the beauty of Christ." - John Piper

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1) The Sacrifice of a Financial Offering.

*Philippians 4:18 ESV I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the **gifts you sent**, a fragrant offering, a **sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God**.*

“In a surrendered life, we often sacrifice the things we love for the One we love even more”

2) The Sacrifice of Good Works.

*Hebrews 12:16 ESV Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such **sacrifices are pleasing** to God.*

*Proverbs 3:9 MSG Honor God with **everything you own**; give him the first and the best.*

*Romans 12:1 “present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship**”*

3) The Sacrifice of Praise.

*Hebrews 13:15 NIV Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually **offer** to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*

*Psalms 150 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! **2** Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! **3** Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! **4** Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! **5** Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! **6** Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*