

“The Missing Ingredient” Part 2

Mount of Olives | September 14, 2025 | Romans 12:1-2

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, it is startling to reflect upon how much anxiety and stress we impose upon ourselves when we focus on our own advancement in this world. Our burden can become so light and easy once we resolve to present our entire selves to Your will. You will always supply our need. Please help us to simply yield unto to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Message Notes

Luke 19:41-42

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Mark 10:13-14

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Matthew 8:5-10

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Study Questions

Read Romans 12:1-8

ICEBREAKER – getting started

1. Describe what the word, “worship” means to you.
2. What do think people in our culture “worship” most?
3. As related to the “worship of God”, describe an experience of “worship” that has been most meaningful to you. What made it so meaningful?

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Romans 12:-8**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What did it mean to them?

1. Read Romans 6:13-16, 1st Peter 1:14, and John 2:15-17. How do these verses compare to Romans 12:1-2? In the Old Testament worship was expressed through animal sacrifice, how does this relate to what Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2?
2. Paul tells us not to be conformed to the patterns of this world. How would you describe the patterns of today’s world? What are the ways in which people conform to these patterns? How are you tempted to conform to this world? How do you know whether or not you are conforming to this world?
3. Paul goes on to instruct us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How is the mind renewed? Why does the mind need to be renewed in order to worship God and know His will? (See Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Ephesians 4:22-24, and Colossians 3:8-10.)
4. In Romans 12:3, Paul tells the church members not to think too highly of themselves, but to think with sober judgment. How would you describe a healthy identity in Christ? How can you acknowledge the gifts God has given you, without having those gifts become a source of pride?
5. Why do you think the body is a great metaphor for the church? In your experience, do you see the church functioning in this way? How can you contribute to this body?
6. As a body we are “members one of another” and “each member belongs to all others” (NIV). What are the implications of this teaching? If we “belong to each other” how should we view using our gifts in the service of the body?

APPLICATION – What does this mean to you today?

1. How do you present yourself as a living sacrifice?
2. What are some of the spiritual disciplines you have found helpful for the renewing of your mind?