

Result Of A Reasonable Response

Text : **Rom. 12: 1-2** - & - **I Pet 1: 13-16**

INTRODUCTION :

- A. In our last lesson we observed the response that God expects to His mercies.**
1. Jesus gave His life for us.
 2. We must give our lives to Him.
- B. No lesser response is reasonable, rational, logical.**
1. We were the enemies of God and deserving of His wrath.
 2. Jesus left Heaven and died on the cross to save us from our just punishment.
- C. Anyone who desires the eternal benefit of His sacrifice must surrender his earthly life to the service and control of Jesus. (Mt. 22:37 -cf- 7:21-23)**
1. This surrender involves the use of one's physical body in the service of God.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 12-13** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
 - b. Compare ... **I Cor. 6: 19-20**
 2. Surrendering one's life is to give each day to God's service.
 - a. **Gal. 2:20-** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. (*He gave ... I must respond in kind.*)
 - b. **II Cor. 5: 14-15** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, **so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**
 - c. The only way for one to be saved eternally is to give his life day-by-day to God.
Matt. 16: 25- For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- D. The life that we sacrifice to God must be holy.**
1. When God calls us out of the world, He separates us for His own use. (**I Pet. 2:9**)
 2. God cleanses all those whom He calls.
I Cor. 6: 11- Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ...

In this lesson we will observe some of the consequences of becoming a living sacrifice.

1. *The sacrifice will not conform to the world's value system.*
2. *Once sacrificed dramatic changes must take place.*
3. *The changed sacrifice will be an example of God's will.*

I. The sacrificed life must not conform to the standards of the world.

A. Elizabeth Elliot wrote an interesting description of the world's value system :

1. Count your troubles; name them one-by-one. Do it at the breakfast table and if anyone will listen repeat them as soon as possible thereafter.
2. Worry every day about something; don't let yourself get out of practice. It won't add a cubit to your stature, but it might burn a few calories.
3. Pity yourself. If you do enough of this no one else will have to do it for you.
4. Devise clever but decent ways to serve both God and mammon. After all, you've got a life to live.
5. Make it your business to find out what the Jones are buying this year and where they are going. Then, try to do them one better .. even if you have to take out another loan to do it.
6. Stay away from absolutes; it's what's right for you that matters.
7. Be your own person and don't get hung up on what other people expect of you.
8. Make sure you get your rights; never mind other people's you have your life to live and they have theirs.
9. Don't fall into compassion traps. You know, the sort of situations where people can walk all over you. If you get too involved in other people's troubles you may neglect your own.
10. Don't let bible reading and prayer get in the way of what's really relevant, things like TV and newspapers. Invisible things are eternal, you want to stick with the visible ones. They're where it's at now.
11. Be right and be sure to let folks know it. If you catch yourself in the wrong don't breath it to a soul.
12. Review daily the names of those who have hurt, wronged or insulted you. Keep those lists up to date and think of ways to get even without being thought of as unreasonable, uncivilized or unchristian.
13. Never forget a wrong; clutch it forever and you'll never be unemployed. Resentment is a fulltime job.

B. The bible text we are examining teaches us to be exactly the opposite.

Romans 12: 1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your rational service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

C. The Apostle is warning us not to allow the world to shape our value system.

1. The original word (soos·khay·mat·id·zo) means to change into the likeness of a pattern.
2. It is the process of shaping a piece of ceramic by pouring clay into a mold.
3. *“Do not let the world shape your values.”*

D. The prince of this world (Eph. 2:2) works to draw you away from God.

1. **I John 2: 15-** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
2. It is a choice ... either or ... Remember : **Matt. 6: 24 .. never two masters**
3. One either goes for the temporal or the spiritual. (*spiritual = eternal* Vs. **16-17**)

E. There are four (4) “isms” one must avoid :

1. **Secularism** (From the latin : “saeculum,” meaning .. *generation, age*)
 - a. This world is all there is or every will be.
(Carl Sagan = *famous secularist, astronomer*)
 - b. This cannot be harmonized with Christianity .. one must choose.
2. **Humanism** (Man’s duty is to man and man is the ultimate authority.)
 - a. This is what Satan advocated in the garden : **“You will be like God knowing ...”**
 - b. Today this philosophy rules on college campuses.
“You can do whatever you want to do as long as it doesn’t harm someone else.”
3. **Relativism** (A theory that conceptions of truth and moral values are not absolute but are relative.)
 - a. People write their own rules. (*Situation ethics*)
 - b. If I don’t like your rules, I will write my own.
 - c. This philosophy rejects the bible or any other absolute authority.
4. **Materialism** (The theory that physical matter is the only reality and that everything, including thought, feeling, mind, and will, can be explained in terms of matter and physical phenomena.)

- a. It advocates that there is no spiritual realm, only what can be seen or measured.
- b. Materialism elevates science as the final authority on all things.

*** As Christians, how do we combat these predominate philosophies ?**

- a) **We live with these on a daily basis.**
- b) **They totally dominate our campuses.**
- c) **As called out people we must totally reject the world's value system.**

II. When we present our lives as a sacrifice to God, we must be willing to change.

A. When one becomes a Christian, God requires that he adapt a TOTALLY different (*transformed*) value system. (*Have a renewed mind*)

- 1. Conversion is more than accepting the teaching about Christ as true.
- 2. Conversion is a life changing experience.
- 3. Many today call themselves Christian and pay Him token respect, but if they have not surrendered and changed their life they are not His.
 - a. A Christian does not think like the rest of the world.
 - b. A Christian does not dress like the world.
 - c. A Christian does not spend his time like the world.
 - d. A Christian does not spend his money like the world.
 - e. A Christian does not does not fit right in with the world.

B. Faith is revealed by the choices one makes in his life.

- 1. One's faith is revealed by how he lives. (cf – **James 2**)
- 2. A real Christian can't hide who he is. (**appear as lights in the world Phil 2: 15-16**)

C. Transformation is more than trimming off a few rough edges.

- 1. The original word (met·am·or·fo·o) means “to change into another form.”
- 2. This is where we get our English word “*Metamorphosis*.”
(This is the process by which a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.)
- 3. This is the same word used to describe the transfiguration of Jesus in **Mark 9:2**.

D. For the Christian, transformation is a radical and ongoing process.

- 1. **II Cor. 3: 18-** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- 2. Christian maturity is the process of being transformed into His likeness. **Eph. 4:11f**

3. We often stumble, but we get back up and proceed toward the goal.

E. The Christian's transformation occurs from the inside out. (Renewing mind)

1. We must “set” our minds on spiritual things. (*Focus, Take aim*)

a. **Col. 3: 2-** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

b. **Col. 3: 10-** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

2. We must meditate on God's word. *Not just read it!*

Psa. 1: 1-2 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3. After we have soaked in the word, we must apply it to our lives.

James 1:25- (*give context*) But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

4. Many today have the same problem that Israel had long ago.

a. **They view preaching as entertainment.**

b. **Ezek. 33: 30-32** But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, ‘Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.’ ³¹ They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. ³² Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

c. Only when the word is taken deep into the heart will it produce fruit. **Luke 8: 4-15**

III. When a Christian allows the word to transform him, he “proves” what is God's will for man.

A. When your life is transformed, it demonstrates God's will for man.

1. Only a transformed life can be the light of God in the world.

Phil. 2: 15- so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

2. Leading the sacrificed life proves to the world that we are followers of Christ.

John 15: 8- My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

B. How has Jesus changed your life ?

Does it now demonstrate the will of God?

Are you different from those around you ?

1. Do you think about different things ? (*In those quiet times*)
2. Do you talk about different things ?
3. Do you desire different things ?
4. Do you dress differently ?
5. Do you go different places for different reasons ?
6. Do you spend your time differently ?
7. Do you spend your money on different things ?

CONCLUSION :

A. God's messenger challenged us :

II Cor. 13: 5- Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
Or do you not recognize this about yourselves,
that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

B. God urges us to surrender our lives to Him as a living sacrifice.

1. Our surrender is in response to the mercies He has extended to us.
2. Surrendering our lives is the only logical (reasonable) response we can make.
3. Our sacrifice involves our body, not just our mind.
4. Our sacrifice must be pure and holy in order to be acceptable.
5. Our sacrificed life must be changed to conform to God's standard.

C. Romans 12: 1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

D. I Pet 1: 13-16

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, **15** but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; **16** because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Lesson Texts :

Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your rational service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

I Pet 1: 13-16

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