

**26 June 2022**

## **Whole-Life Worship: The offering of ourselves - Romans 12:1-8**

### **A Living Sacrifice**

**Ro 12** <sup>1</sup> 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.

*Question 1:* Who was Paul writing to and why might he have been writing?

Paul alludes to many concepts in this short passage

*Question 2:* When he refers to “a living sacrifice”, what other passages of the bible or symbolism are brought to mind?

*Question 3:* What is significant about presenting our bodies, rather than our hearts, mind or spirit?

*Question 4:* What is the nature of “spiritual worship” that Paul is trying to point to? How might it differ from other types of worship?

**Gal 2** <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

*Question 5:* How does this verse help us understand the nature of a “living sacrifice”?

*Question 6:* What might (should?) this mean in the life of a Christian?

**Ro 12** <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

*Question 7:* What might Paul be referring to when he talks about “renewal of your mind”? How does this relate to verse 1?

*Question 8:* How might this transform us? In our everyday lives, what can we do that might assist this process of transformation?

### **Gifts of Grace:**

**Ro 12** <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

From the sermon: “measure of faith” is not about how much faith God assigns to each person, but about how we use our faith as a ruler to assess our decisions and judgement made in faith.

*Question 9:* How does this impact how you think of faith? What might this mean for you in how you make some decisions going forward?

**Ro 12** <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

*Question 10:* Which of the gifts Paul lists to you think have been gifted to you in some measure? How might you choose to use them going forward?

### **Surrender:**

John Calvin defined surrender in these words: 'To have no other will, no other wisdom, and to follow the Lord wherever he leads.'

*Question 11:* How might John Calvin’s understanding of Christian surrender help shape our understanding of being a living sacrifice?

**God our father, we pray for your wisdom in making choices to serve you - that our daily lives may become increasingly filled by spontaneous, holy acts of worship. We ask that our gifts and skills, our faith, and our humility might find us more closely following the example of John Calvin to seek no other will, to pursue no other wisdom, and to follow you, Lord, wherever you lead. Amen.**