

TRUE CHRISTIAN SERVICE (1)

True Christian Service is only accomplished when you stop presenting the members of your body to serve sin and present them once and for all as a living sacrifice to the service of God.

Romans 12:1-21 (KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Because of God's Mercies

Romans 9:30-32 conclude that no one is saved apart from the mercy of God. The first eleven chapters of Romans have shown us how we all start off in sin and unbelief. God foreordained Jesus His Son to make the way of grace unto salvation for us through His birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection.

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Those of us who are saved were foreordained to be objects of God's grace. In Christ it is God Who justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies us by His mercy.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

It is on the basis of God's mercies that the following appeal is made to us. In response to God's mercies that saved us we ought to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

By Staying Close

The Greek word for *present* is G3936 and means *to stand by, place near or beside*. It is translated *yield* in Romans 6:13,16,19 and *shew* in 2 Timothy 2:15. The word is in the active voice, so we make the decision and the effort to place ourselves near God, to stand by, yielded to Him, and ready for His use. Young Samuel gives us an example.

1 Samuel 3:9-10 (KJV) Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. [10] And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

By Making A Sacrifice

The Greek word translated *present* is used throughout the Septuagint in connection with the Jewish sacrificial system. That seems to be the idea here; but instead of offering dead animal sacrifices to God we are to offer up our live bodies as a sacrifice to Him. Jesus took care of the requirement for a dead sacrifice once for all.

Hebrews 10:9-10 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Of Your Body

Why the body? In this present dimension of time in which we live, our bodies are our only means of expressing ourselves. Also, at present, we believers have a spirit that once was dead, but now it is alive to God through the new birth that comes by faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Ephesians 2:1-5 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

In our spirit we are new creatures in Christ, perfect and sinless.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

However, we still live in the old body that before salvation was a slave to sin. The redemption of our bodies is yet future; the hope of all believers and all creation.

Romans 8:21-23 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. (23) And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Before faith in Christ, we were totally sold out to sin; but now in Christ, we serve a new master.

Romans 6:16-18 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

We are slaves to God; but our body is still marred by sin and it wants to continue to obey the old lusts of our flesh just as it did before salvation. Our bodies have no desire to serve God; its desire is to still serve sin.

Romans 7:18-23 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. (19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. (20) Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (21) I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

However, our body's desires are not supposed to control our behavior. In Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit Who dwells within our new spirits that are now alive to God, we can say yes to God and no to sin.

Romans 7:24-8:4 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (8:1) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.