

Evening Worship / April 23, 2023

“Mercies that Move Us!” Romans 12:1

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

In all of Paul’s letters, He starts with doctrine, and moves to duty. He starts with things we should know and believe and moves to how we should act and live!

He starts with truth, our creed, the credenda and tells us what should be on our agenda!

This is what he does marvelously in this Epistle to the Romans, he has taught us in ELEVEN wonderful chapters about God’s great grace, and here he starts to tell us how to respond, starting with God mercies!

We should be moved, motivated, by the MERCIES of God to present our bodies a living sacrifice ...

Why are God’s mercies worthy of our all?

I. *God’s mercies are worthy of our all because they are from God, they are called - **the mercies of God***

1. *We should be moved by God’s mercies because they are the mercies of a God Who is righteous, A God Who hates sin –*

A. *God’s righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, meaning His laws still apply today –
¹⁴² **Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth. Psalm 119:142 (NKJV)***

B. *God’s righteousness means He has to hate evil and sin –*

¹⁶ **These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren. Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV) These are NOT the only sins that God hates!**

C. *Mercy and righteousness are not usually thought of as together, but in God and Christ they are, for us who are saved, God is Just and the Justifier in Christ –*

²⁶ **to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26 (NKJV)**

God’s righteous hatred of sin is so great that nothing but the death of His only begotten Son could appease that wrath!

D. *We should be grateful, appreciative and humble regarding God’s mercies because He just as easily and rightly could have condemned us –*

²² **Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. Romans 11:22 (NKJV)**

2. *We should be moved by God's mercies because they are the mercies of a God Who is all-knowing, and all powerful, He sees all sin and is able to PUNISH all –*

A. *He punished the earlier earth with the FLOOD because of EVIL THOUGHTS –*

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

B. *Nothing is hidden from the heat or power of His Wrath –*

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give account.* Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)

C. *Yet while He sees all and is able to punish, He is merciful –*

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:10–14 (NKJV)

II. *God's mercies are worthy of our all because they COME TO US –*

1. *We are all of us in that great large group that did not seek God, that is not righteous -*

¹⁰ As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one;* ¹¹ *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.* Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV)

2. *We certainly didn't DESERVE CHRIST DYING for us –*

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6–8 (NKJV)

III. *God's mercies are worthy of our all because of how they were obtained for us -*

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6–8 (NKJV)

IV. *God's mercies are worthy of our all because what they gain for us -*

They not only save us from deserved wrath, they also make us children of God, fit for and inheritors of Heaven / Glory -

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:16–17 (NKJV)

How should we respond to such wonderful mercies?

V. *By offering our bodies as living sacrifices –*

1. *Because He gave His body for us, and shed His blood for us –*

¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, **“This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”** ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. Luke 22:19–20 (NKJV)**

A. *This tells me I should not only be willing to a living sacrifice, but a dying one too, if needed.*

B. *This is extreme, because He was extreme in His love for us!*

2. *He is worthy of our BEST LOVE –*

³⁷ **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** ³⁸ **And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.** ³⁹ **He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 10:37–39 (NKJV)**

VI. *By being Holy, He is worthy of our holiness –*

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

To be holy in relation to God / Christ is to belong to Him and to Him ONLY, separated from the world, the flesh and the devil, separated from sin and separated (HOLY) to God, Paul was this -

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God Romans 1:1 (NKJV)

About the Apostle Paul’s holy separation John Murray wrote -

“All bonds of interest and attachment alien or extraneous to the promotion of the gospel have been cut asunder and he is set apart by the investment of all his interests and ambitions in the cause of the gospel.” John Murray

True, God-glorifying holiness requires / consists of –

1. *The New Birth –*

³ **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)**

A. *Can see it, smell it, taste it, enter it, know it or desire it ...*

B. *If we cannot see it, we won’t be separated to it!*

2. *True holiness implies a hunger for righteousness, for God, for Christ as the Bread of Life –*

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)**

3. *True holiness will evidence itself in an ever-increasing liveliness about the worship and service of God –*

⁸ **The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)**

Now, in one sense the four living creatures may seem unfair examples:

- A. *They dwell in God's presence, before His throne*
- B. *They are FULL of EYES, able to perceive the brightness of God's glory, in blessed eternal delight ...*
- C. *They are unhindered by sin*
- D. *They have wings, to do God's will with SPEED and EASE!*

Yet, our holiness is that of weakness, distance and struggle, it is the holiness that means overcoming sin and Satan -

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

4. *True holiness makes its mark on every part of our lives -*

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

5. *True holiness is not equivalent to sinless perfection, but it presses toward that –*

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:8–10 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48 (NKJV)

6. *True holiness is dependent upon a continual union with Jesus Christ –*

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)

7. *True holiness makes us hated odd-balls in this sin-filled world –*

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. John 15:18–19 (NKJV)

8. *Holiness is something we NEED –*

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

VII. *We respond to God's mercies by realizing, a self-sacrificing response, as detailed above, is REASONABLE -*

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

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