

Romans Chapter Twelve

Living the CWL (12:1-15:13)

Our Relationship to God (vv. 1-2)

VERSE 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God (Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ [*pres.act.ind.1s. parakaleo urge, encourage + infer.conj. oun therefore + pro.acc.p. su + noun voc.m.p. adelphos + prep dia + d.a.w/noun gen.m.p. oiktirmos compassion, mercy + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos*], **to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God** [*παραστήσαι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν θυσίαν ζῶσαν ἁγίαν εὐάρεστον τῷ θεῷ, [aor.act.infin. paristemi present + d.a.w/noun acc.nt.p. soma body + pro.gen.p. su + noun acc.f.s. thusia sacrifice + pres.act.part.acc.f.s. zao live + adj.acc.f.s. hagios holy + adj.acc.f.s. eurestos acceptable + d.a.w/noun dat.m.s. theos*], **which is your spiritual service of worship [your reasonable service]** [*τὴν λογικὴν λατρείαν ὑμῶν [d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. logikos reasonable + noun acc.f.s. latreia service, worship + pro.gen.p. su]*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 1

1. Paul starts a new section of this letter concentrating on every day applications for believers.
2. In chapters 6-8 he dealt with the issues related to the STA and how to overcome it.
3. The exhortation here in v. 1 is a two-part exhortation (along with v. 2).
4. This verse deals with the presentation of the believer's body in service to God.
5. Each of us is challenged in this regard.
6. The "therefore" ties this exhortation to the preceding reality of our high privilege in light of Israel's displacement.
7. "Brethren" refers to a brotherhood made up of members of the Royal Family.
8. This exhortation is said to be "by the mercies of God" which is the basis for our Ph2 qualification to be in God's service.
9. "Mercies" covers all the grace benefits that qualify us to serve God in truth and honor.
10. It includes forgiveness of sins based on 1 Jn. 1:9.
11. Paul compares our bodies (with all that is apart of human anatomy) to an acceptable sacrifice within the Levitical code.
12. Both likeness and difference is in view.
13. The likeness is that the whole person is to be committed to the service of God.
14. Your body is not your own since it is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; 2 Cor. 6:16; Rom. 8:9).

15. The difference is that the believer's body is alive, whereas an acceptable animal sacrifice under the Law was put to death.
16. Once a believer dies he is no longer able to produce SG3.
17. In addition to being "alive" the believer must qualify as "holy."
18. This requires the isolation of the ISTA.
19. The presentation of the body (24/7) must be accomplished under the FHS.
20. Being out of fellowship neutralizes the holiness factor.
21. In Rom. 6:12 believers are told to not allow the STA to rule the real you, but rather to keep on presenting our bodily members as weapons of righteousness as those alive from the dead (6:13).
22. So we should keep tabs on ourselves overruling the STA grid so as to accomplish those things pleasing to God.
23. Rulership of the STA sidetracks service to God.
24. The entire anatomy with all its constituent parts is to be manifestation of God's perfect righteousness.
25. It includes speech, thoughts, and overt actions.
26. In order for the call to accomplish that which is holy and acceptable to God demands a high level of commitment to the intake of BD.
27. To be acceptable to God the believer must be willing to forsake the things that interfere with this call to divine service.
28. This presentation of the entire body with its constituent parts is described as "your reasonable service."
29. Anything less than total commitment to the royal imperatives does not qualify as "your reasonable service."
30. The NAS has: "your spiritual service of worship."
31. This might be taken as referring to worship in the assembly.
32. But here the exhortation covers all activities a believer might engage in.

An Essential Adjunct to Acceptable Service (v. 2)

VERSE 2 And do not be conformed to this world (καὶ μὴ συσχηματίζεσθε τῷ αἰῶνι

τούτῳ [*conj. kai + neg.me + pres.pass.imper.2p. suschematizomai be conformed to; also at 1Pet.*

1:14 + d.a.w/noun dat.m.s. aion age, world order + pro.dat.m.s. houtos this]), but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind [ἀλλὰ μεταμορφοῦσθε τῇ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ

νοός [*conj. alla but + pres.pass.imper.2p metamorphoomai be transformed; also at Matt.*

17:2//Mk. 9:2 of Jesus transfiguration; and 2 Cor. 3:18 + d.a.w/noun instr.f.s. anakainosis

renewal; also at Titus 3:5 + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. nous mind], so that you may prove

[discern] what the will of God is [εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, [*prep eis*

"so that" + d.a.w/pres.act.infin. dokimazo prove, discern + pro.acc.p. su + interrog.pro. tis

“*what?*” + *d.a.w/noun nom.nt.s. thelma will* + *d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos*], **that which is good and acceptable and perfect** [τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον [*d.a.nom.nt.s. “that which”* + *adj.nom.nt.s. agathos good* + *conj. kai* + *adj.nom.nt.s. euaristos acceptable, pleasing* + *conj. kai* + *adj.nom.nt.s. teleios perfect*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 2

1. An adjunct is something joined or added to another thing.
2. In this verse there are two imperatives (royal)—one negative and one positive.
3. The negative is a prohibition which has to do with the cosmos or particular age believers live in.
4. Always remember that the present age, like those before us, is evil (Gal. 1:14), and that Satan is god of the cosmos (2 Cor. 4:4).
5. The dark side influences negative volition with the doctrines of demons.
6. In these last days many believers will fall prey to satanic propaganda (1 Tim. 4:1).
7. This includes false religion and pseudo scientific theories (something not proven by experimentation or repetition).
8. The verb “conformed” (συχεματιζομαι) occurs here and in 1 Pet. 1:14 in respect to the lust pattern of the STA.
9. Conformity to the cosmos first has to do with a mind-set.
10. It is referred by the term “worldliness” by Christians.
11. It comprises any human viewpoint thinking that contradicts divine viewpoint.
12. This includes false priorities and ambitions that violate the operational, viewpoint, and geographical will of God.
13. As positive believers we should constantly monitor all that we are exposed to bringing every thought into captivity for Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).
14. Again, conformity to the present age is to pattern our lives after those who are not governed by BD.
15. As we live the CWL our MPR is the maturity adjustment which involves consistent intake of BD in the local church under right pastor-teacher.
16. We are not to live our lives, as is the practice of some, by isolating ourselves from society like for instance the Amish.
17. The obvious STA actions associated with the cosmos are to be avoided (cf. Rom. 13:13; 1 Pet. 4:3-5).
18. The legitimate things of the world we can and should engage in such as: making a living, raising a family, acquiring possessions and general appearance.
19. We need to be prayerful in our endeavors determining what God’s will is in all our endeavors.
20. Violating an known doctrinal principle puts the believer out of fellowship.
21. Regarding one’s personal appearance we are avoid immodesty, following trends that violate Scripture, advertising questionable things, and simply appearing as unclean and unkempt.
22. The positive command—“be transformed” has to do with the inner person of the new man where truth resides.
23. This provides us with new priorities, interest and norms and standards.

24. This is the product of the function of GAP (cf. 2 Cor. 4:14; Col. 3:10).
25. The transformation is related to the intake of BD where the believer develops discernment with respect to the will of God (Heb. 5:14).
26. This includes: the viewpoint will of God, the geographical will of God, and the operational will of God.
27. Face-to-face teaching renews or revitalizes the believer as one listens to BD after being exposed to the cosmos.
28. This keeps the believer in the loop so to speak and the upshot is to identify what the will of God is on a wide range of topics.
29. The mind (thinking) is renewed in Bible class and the result is “so that you may prove/discern what the will of God is.
30. Again, consistent attendance is crucial in avoiding human viewpoint and bad decisions.
31. The directive will of God comes over the time in grade resulting in sanctification as per the maturity adjustment.
32. God’s will is described in this verse with three adjectives: “good”, “acceptable”, and “perfect.”
33. God’s will is the ultimate “good.”
34. God’s will is “acceptable” (or pleasing).
35. Some verses: Rom. 8:8; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:4; Heb. 11:6.
36. And God’s will is “perfect” as it comes from God’s perfect essence.
37. It can’t be improved upon so we should not add to or subtract from it.