

INTELLIGENT WORSHIP

Romans 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Some important facts we must believe
 - 1) There is a god
 - 2) He has revealed Himself to us
 - 3) He desires our worship
 - 4) He has a right to tell us what pleases Him
 - 5) We should do all things according to His will and not according to our thinking.

- B. Jesus set the boundaries of worship *John 4:20-24*
 - 1) It would not be confined to a particular place
 - 2) It would be in Spirit
 - 3) It would be in truth

- C. Paul enlarges on the act of worship and informs the Romans of that which constitutes the basis of individual and corporate worship.
 - 1) We must offer ourselves to God
 - 2) We must offer our minds to God
 - 3) This is God's will

- I. Present Your Living Body To God *verse 1*
 - A. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God,..."*
 - 1) *"beseech"* = παρακαλεω = "to call to", "admonish", "encourage" The word was used in classical Greek of exhorting troops who were about to go into battle.
 - 2) *"therefore"* = ουν = This refers to the whole previous argument. *vs. 30, 31, 32*
 - 3) *"mercies"* = οικτιρισμος = "mercy, compassion, arising from the miserable state of one in need" The prep. w. gen. (by) gives the reader to understand that the

B. *"...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

- 1) *"transformed"* = μεταμορφοομαι = "to change one's form, fashion or appearance, to altar one's form.
- 2) *"renewing"* = ανακαινωσις = "renovation", "making other and different from that which had been formerly"
- 3) *"mind"* = νοος = "the thinking power"
- 4) Jesus was "transformed" *Mark 9:1-3*

C. *"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*

- 1) *"prove"* = δοκιμαζω = "to assay", "to make trial of", "put to the proof"
- 2) *"good"* = αγαθος = "worthy of admiration", The inner harmonious perfection, which is it's own standard.
- 3) *"acceptable"* = ευαρεστος = "well-pleasing"
- 4) *"perfect"* = τελειος = "what has reached it's end, term, or limit, hence complete, full, wanting nothing, with special reference to the end for which it was intended"
- 5) *"will"* = θελημα = "active volition", "wish", "desire"
- 6) *"That ye may discern what is the will of God, good and well-pleasing and complete."*

divine mercies are the power by means of which this exhortation should take possession of his will (Godet)

- 4) Motive is important! When we know the power of God's mercies we are to offer worship.

B. *"that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable unto God,..."*

- 1) *"present"* = παριστημι = "to cause to stand beside or near, to place nearby, exhibit" The technical term for presenting a sacrifice.
- 2) *"bodies"* = σωμα = "the body as a whole" It is the sum total of our person, mind, body, spirit.
- 3) *"living"* = ζωα = "to have life in all of it's varied aspects, the glory of that which lives"
- 4) *"sacrifice"* = θυσια = "the act of killing and offering in sacrifice; it may mean the flesh of the thing killed.
- 5) *"holy"* = αγιος = "sacred", "that which is sacred cannot be polluted, purity is part of the meaning"
- 6) *"acceptable"* = ευαρεστος = "well-pleasing"
- 7) "Dedicated and fit for His service" NEB

C. *"which is your reasonable service"*

- 1) *"reasonable"* = λογικος = "rational", "pertaining to the reason", "intelligent"
- 2) *"service"* = λατεια = "worship", "service to God"
- 3) "Intelligent worship of God"

II. Restructure Your Thinking verse 2

A. *"And be not conformed to this world:"*

- 1) *"conformed"* = συσχηματιζω = "to form, fashion, or shape one thing after or like another"
- 2) *I Peter 1:13-16*
- 3) "Do not let this world mold you into it's shape"

