

**“THE SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF THE CHRISTIAN”**

**ROMANS 12:1,2**

**INTRO:** What a joy it is to see a person receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. I never get tired of seeing a person make the decision to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved. And I trust that each of you have the frequent joy of seeing someone trust Christ through your personal ministry to them as we are all called to be **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST** and **SOUL WINNERS FOR THE LORD**. But one thing that has amazed me down through the years is that at times a person will make a profession of faith and then go on to have a life of faithfulness and fruitfulness for the Lord. But on the other hand, at times a person will make a profession of faith and hardly ever progress in their Christian life and service at all. SO, THE QUESTION IS: **WHY DO SOME PEOPLE RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND BECOME FRUITFUL FOR THE LORD AND OTHERS COME TO CHRIST AND REMAIN SPIRITUALLY DORMANT? THE ANSWER IS THAT MANY BELIEVERS DO NOT TAKE TO HEART THE TEACHING OF ROMANS 12:1,2 WHICH IS A CALL FOR SPIRITUAL SERVICE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN TO FOLLOW.** Now, Romans 12:1,2 is no doubt a very familiar text to most of us, but the question is **DO WE ALL APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS?** Let's study this text anew today as it gives us teaching on **SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF THE CHRISTIAN.**

**OBSERVATION:** THIS TEXT IS ACTUALLY A VERY EARNEST PLEA THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MAKING THROUGH PAUL FOR EACH BELIEVER TO ACCEPT

***“I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE BRETHREN.”***

**I. THE MOTIVE FOR OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE – VS. 1a**

***“THE MERCIES OF GOD.”***

**NOTE:** In this text, GOD'S MERCIES involve **those acts of God's kindness that He gives believers even though we deserve none of them.**

A. Some of God's Mercies are Eternally Established

-The phrase **“I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE BRETHREN BY THE MERCIES OF GOD”** refers to the eternally planned and secured mercies God has given each believer as is spoken of by Paul in the previous chapters of Romans. Note Romans 3:23-26.

B. Some of God's Mercies are Renewed Daily – Lamentations 3:22-26

***GOD'S MERCIES WILL MOTIVATE THE OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN TO SERVE THE LORD CONSISTENTLY***

**II. THE MEASURE OF OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE – VS. 1b**

***“THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES”***

**NOTE:** The call is for EVERY BELIEVER to **“PRESENT HIS BODY”** which means **“TO VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT RESTRAINT GIVE”** our entire body to the Lord for His use.

A. From the Spiritual Basis – 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

1. Our Bodies are Indwelt by God the Holy Spirit
2. Our Bodies belong to God and are to Glorify Him

B. From the Personal Basis – 1 Corinthians 9:27; Philippians 1:20

-We live in our bodies and everything we do is in our bodies and thus our bodies represent our life. Each of us are compelled to see that OUR BODIES are a **LIVING, HOLY SACRIFICE TO GOD.** When God has our body, He has our all and He expects us to dedicate our bodies entirely to Him as a **LIVING HOLY SACRIFICE FREE FROM SIN.**

**III. THE MORALITY OF OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE – VS. 1c**

***“WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE”***

**NOTE:** This is the only place in scripture that the word “REASONABLE” is used. It comes from a Greek word that means **“LOGICAL.”** **THE POINT IS: IN LIGHT OF ALL THAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US THROUGH CHRIST, AND SINCE OUR BODIES ARE HIS REDEEMED POSSESSION, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT WE PRESENT OUR BODIES TO HIM TO BE USED AS HE DESIRES.**

#### **IV. THE MEANS OF OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE – VS. 2a**

**“BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD – BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.”**

A. By Being not Conformed to this World

1. This world is that **evil system that is under the control of Satan – 1 John 2:15-17.**

2. Not to be “Conformed” means **“NOT TO FASHION OR PATTERN OUR LIVES AFTER ANY OF THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.”**

B. By Being Transformed through the Renewing of our Mind

1. The word **“TRANSFORMED”** means to **“BE CHANGED.”**

2. The word **‘RENEW’** means to **“RENOVATE.”**

**NOTE: TO RESIST CONFORMING TO THE WORLD AND TO REGULARLY TRANSFORM OR RENOVATE OUR MINDS INVOLVES A SPIRITUALLY DISCIPLINED AND DETERMINED PROCESS OF SPIRITUAL EXERCISE INVOLVING: 1) SERIOUS BIBLE STUDY, 2) SINCERE AND EARNEST PRAYER LIFE, 3) INTIMATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, 4) REGULAR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT, 5) DISCIPLINED BIBLICAL THINKING, 6) ACTIVE PERSONAL MINISTRY, 7) QUICK CONFESSION OF SIN, 8) SOUND BIBLICAL DOCTRINE, 9) CONSISTENT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

#### **V. THE MANIFESTATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE – VS. 2b**

**“THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.”**

-Note the Key Words: **“PROVE”** (To Discern), **“GOOD”** (Beneficial), **“ACCEPTABLE”** (Fully Agreeable), **“PERFECT”** (Complete) **WILL OF GOD.**

#### **APPLICATION/LESSON**

**OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE IS TO TOTALLY FLEE THE WAYS OF THE WORLD AND TO TOTALLY LIVE ACCORDING TO BIBLICAL TRUTH SO AS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD ALWAYS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD TOTALLY!**