

Extreme Life Makeover

"The Consecrated Body and Soul"

Pastor Rick Shelton

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- **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** 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. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **Romans 12:1-2 (Amplified)** I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].
- If we understand these two verses of scripture correctly, it could mean a life change for us! Today's message will break these scriptures down by certain words, so that we can more clearly understand them.
- **Beseech**: to beg, plead, implore, entreat; making a passionate appeal.
- **Therefore**: refers to the previous chapters (Romans chapters 9, 10, 11) that show that my life fits into God's bigger plan that may reach farther than my lifetime. This keeps me from living selfishly, wanting everything to go 'my way'.
- We don't know everything about anything! Only God does! Realizing this will keep us from becoming arrogant and judgmental about people and situations.
- God knows what He is doing, and we will find that His plan is best.
- Paul had a passionate plea based on all this (understanding that God has a bigger plan).
- **The mercies** (pity, compassion) **of God** (the fact that God loves us so much and knows that if we don't get this, we will never live the fulfilled and fruitful life that He has for us!)
- **Bodies**: not just the flesh, but in a holistic sense, present your bodies; **presenting all your members and faculties**. Means passion and desires of the flesh. Flesh wants to do what is not of God,
- God will take us where we don't want to go in order to get us where we do want to go!
- Make a decisive dedication of your bodies (with all of its faculties and members!).
- Flesh: wants to do what it wants to do; passions and desires; most of them aren't good for us.
- 'Craving of flesh' has to have it now. 'Desire' can wait for the process.
- Emotions, reasoning, intellect. Take the emotions of fear, anger, etc., and lay them down before the Lord.
- Tongue: words
- 'Body' includes your senses: see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. Don't be moved by what you see, hear, etc. (Senses are the gateway to our mind/spirit!) Lay your senses down before the Lord!
- Be a **living** (not dead) sacrifice!
- Paul was speaking to Hebrews who knew very well about sacrifices, but they were always dead sacrifices.
- A 'dead' sacrifice loses their personality, desires, will. A 'living' sacrifice keeps all of "who I am" in my nature and personality, the way God made us to be. Some of us are serious, some are fun-loving, etc. When we get saved we are to be serious about the things of God, but also **be true** to who He created us to be.
- God wants to take who you are and, not annihilate you, but sanctify and purify you.
- God doesn't want to make us spiritual clones that lose all the beautiful things that make us unique.
- "I am who God made me to be and who I am is beautiful!" Love others the way they are and don't judge them.
- **Sacrifice**: to be made a victim so as to no longer be in control.
- Paul is begging for this living sacrifice, not to annihilate us, but so our flesh (eyes, ears, desires) no longer controls us, so that we no longer live a willful life where we are in 'charge', or in 'control'.

- This is one of the biggest issues in Christian growth. We want salvation, but not 'lordship'.
- Holy: morally blameless.
- Acceptable: completely agreeable to God.
- Reasonable service: Rational, intelligent worship.
- When we do the above, it becomes an act of worship. Anytime we deny the flesh of what it wants (temptation, anger, etc.) that obedience to God's way becomes a sweet smelling incense of offering of worship before the throne. The very act of laying down those things will become an act of worship before the Lord.
- The greater our resistance to temptation, and then to be obedient, the greater the worship that obedience brings before the throne, even though we don't consciously realize it.
- **James 4:13-15 (NKJV)** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
- If we live our life setting our own goals saying, "I will do this, this and this . . . ," it says we am in control. When something happens to upset our plans, we freak out!
- **James 4:15 (NKJV)** Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."
- It is so much better to plan and set goals, but say all the while, "If the Lord wills!" Be willing to do His will, His way!
- It is not about us, but about Him!
- **Matthew 10:30 (NKJV)** He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.
- God made you who you are, so be who you are, but He demands control! We still plan and set goals, but do it with a humble posture before God, asking Him if it's okay, and His will. Pray diligently until you have the peace to go ahead, or go another way. That's the way to live your life!
- We approach everything with a more humble posture, and that kind of life is lived with much more peace, because we do not know what will happen . . . not only tomorrow, but even today . . . but God does!
- **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Prove: discern.
- If you don't get to do the things you desire, you will find they would not have made you happy after all.
- God wants to do for you what is illustrated several times in the Gospels. When Jesus fed the 4,000 and the 5,000, He asked the disciples to give Him their bread. He took their bread, broke it, blessed it, and gave it back to them.
- God does not want you to have a miserable life, but quite the opposite. Until you take your life and lay it at the foot of the cross, it will never have the blessing of God upon it, and be all He wants it to be. Give God all your passions, desires, and dreams, and when you do He takes it like the bread and breaks it (about breaking your control on your life), then He blesses it, and gives you a life you could only have dreamed of, and you hold it humbly now. He controls it!
- This has defined my life for 34 years. You all know my (Pastor Rick's) story. Never wanted to be a preacher, even though I had fallen in love with Pastor Donna. God had told her she was going to marry a preacher. God came to me in a vision, and told me to sign a blank piece of paper, which represented my life, and then He would fill in His plan for my life.
- You will do more with "broken bread" than you could have ever done with it unbroken!