

the



HOLINESS

PODCAST

Episode #3 – Living Sacrifices

SUMMARY:

Paul appeals to the Roman Christians to be “living sacrifices” in Romans 12:1,2. These two verses describe a living, holy relationship which God offers but few Christians seemingly experience today. Jesus' redemptive work has changed forever the way Christians worship, discern God's will and please Him. Inward transformation brings spiritual power! This is the first in a series of three studies on Romans 12.

KEY STATEMENTS:

“God will no longer accept dead sacrifices. He will only accept living, breathing offerings of whole persons who will seek His will supremely in their lives.”

“Here is the choice of life...two competing worldviews and ways of living. They are described as outward conformity or inward transformation.”

“We can allow the Holy Spirit to be opportunistically redemptive in every part of our lives. The mundane, the marketplace, the stranger, the chance encounter, the tedious, the unique – all hold the potential to be means of grace. How exciting a life is that?”

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- I. The podcast asserts that true worship now takes place everywhere and all the time in the lives of Christians.

“Now, worship is expanded and re-defined to the realm of everyday living! It is a stunning and shocking pronouncement.... Is it possible that we as the church have failed to embrace the total reorientation of worship that comes with accepting Christ as our Savior and receiving the Holy Spirit?”

A) DISCUSS how in the text Christians offering themselves as “living sacrifices” relates to being “your spiritual act of worship.” Is the teacher correct that the Church has not embraced everyday living as worship in our teaching? Our practice?

B) REFLECT upon your own personal life. Can you see your daily activities as worship? Is there anything you need to give to God in order for that to happen?

II. DISCUSS being “*conformed* to this world” and being “*transformed* by the renewing of your mind,” remembering these differences:

A) **Outward Conformity** is the influence of the world on us. It is the world molding us and seducing us, ultimately disguising our heart commitment to Christ and counterfeiting our living so that it becomes a masquerade.

B) **Inward Transformation** is the Holy Spirit at work infusing us with spiritual insight and power. Christ in our heart is expressed in our actions, temperament and living. It is God in us at work to influence the world around us.

REFLECT upon this “**choice of life**” personally and honestly.

- Are you a Christian but *living with a world-orientation* seeking to please yourself and others first?

- Or is your life *Christ-oriented and impacting the world* around you redemptive, causing you to stand out for God and be used by Him?

C) COMPARE and DISCUSS the teaching in these passages to our text:

Ephesians 4:23-24

Romans 6:19

James 4:7-8

D) In the podcast Diane Ury was quoted from the 2019 Southern Bible Conference at Lake Junaluska.

REFLECT upon her words below in our lesson's context:

"We live in a self-reverential culture... Everything that is holy is about self-giving. Everything that is unholy is about self-interest."

E) PRAY that God will help us remove any dead sacrifices from our lives

- that He will fill our everyday living with His presence and transform all parts of our lives into spiritual worship
- that the Holy Spirit will help us see clearly what God's will is for us
- that He will strengthen us to resist the world's influence and keep us holy