

A LIVING SACRIFICE

Rom 12:1,2; 1Pet 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Spirit of the Apostle: "I beseech you" beg you in view of all the mercies of God that you present (give) your bodies a living sacrifice
- B. Sacrifice denotes the act of offering; then objectively, that which is offered.

DISCUSSION:

I. A PICTURE OF WORSHIP

- A. Worship in the mosaic dispensation
 1. Temple with priesthood order
 2. A daily ministry of sacrifice; prayers, service
- B. Worship in the N. T. Church
 1. The church or temple in which we serve
 - a. Made of living stones 1Pet 2:5
 - b. Founded on Christ the chief cornerstone 1Pet 2:7
 - c. Bound together by love Matt 22:37-39
 - d. Gates of hell shall not prevail Matt 16:18
 2. The Priesthood 1Pet 2:5
 - a. All believers set apart to the ministry of God
 - b. Not sons of Levi but sons of God through the new birth
 - c. Daily ministry of sacrifice, prayers, service

II. LIVING SACRIFICE

- A. Importance of the body
 1. The adoption. . . the redemption of body Rom 8:22-23
 2. Glorify God in your body 1Cor 6:20
 3. Temple of the Holy Spirit 1Cor 6:19,20
- B. Presentation of the body
 1. In surrender - to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand
 2. In submission - the condition of being submissive, humble, or compliant
 3. In service - the work performed by one that serves
- C. Description of our service
 1. Living
 - a. Old Law - life given in death

- b. Under Christ - our old man put to death (sacrificed) that we can be made more alive Gal 2:20; 5:24
 - c. Our lives become a perpetual sacrifice (offering)
 2. Holy
 - a. Old Law - sacrifice spotless without blemish
 - b. An insult to God to present an unclean life in His service Jas 3:10,11 (smoking, drinking, bad language, etc)
 - c. Our bodies must be separated, consecrated to God 2Cor 6:17; 1Pet 2:9
 3. Acceptable (Just because we are doing something does not make what we do acceptable) Prov 14:12
 - a. Sacrifices of Cain and Able one was one was not
 - b. Sin offering came first then the thank offering
 - c. Christ offered once and for all as a sacrifice for sin. Heb 10:9,10
 - d. Acceptance and appropriation of this is necessary first, then presentation of our bodies as a thank offering.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Under the Old Law a sacrifice had to be the best that a person had - firstling of the flock without spot or blemish etc. .
- B. Our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. Are they in a condition that God will accept them as sacrifices to Him, or will they be rejected as was Cain's