

## **Week 6 Sermon Series on Radical Worship.**

Sermon Title: "**A Life of True Sacrificial Worship**"

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Where: St John, Prospect Ky

When: August 11th, 2024

By: Dr. Alvarez

### **A Living Sacrifice**

**Rom 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### **Introduction:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, as we gather in the presence of our loving and merciful God, we turn our hearts and minds to a powerful passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans: **Romans 12:1-2**. These verses provide a profound insight into what it means to live a life of true sacrificial worship. Let us read these words together:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (**Romans 12:1-2**, NIV)

#### **1. The Motivation: In View of God's Mercy**

Paul begins this section by urging us "in view of God's mercy." Our journey of faith and worship does not start with our own efforts or goodness but with a response to the infinite mercy of God. It is the understanding of His grace, beautifully displayed in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, that calls us to a life of worship.

The mercies of God are abundant and multifaceted. From the foundational mercy of salvation to the daily mercies of strength, provision, and guidance, we are recipients of His endless grace. This realization should fill our hearts with gratitude and drive us to offer ourselves wholeheartedly to Him.

#### **2. The Call: Offer Your Bodies as a Living Sacrifice**

Paul calls us to present our bodies as a "living sacrifice," which is both holy and pleasing to God. In the Old Testament, sacrifices involved the offering of animals, which were given in death to atone for sins. In stark contrast, Paul invites us to be living sacrifices. This means that every aspect of our lives—our actions, words, thoughts, and desires—are to be dedicated to God.

This sacrificial living is not a one-time event but a continual offering, a lifestyle marked by dedication and service to our Creator. It involves surrendering our rights, our will, and our desires to align with God's purposes and plans.

### **3. The Nature of True Worship: Holy and Pleasing to God**

True worship is more than just singing songs or attending church services. It is a life lived in holiness, one that is separated for God's purposes and focused on what pleases Him. Holiness involves moral purity and ethical living, reflecting the character of Christ in our daily interactions and decisions. It is the natural outflow of a heart transformed by God's love and grace.

### **4. The Challenge: Do Not Conform to the Pattern of This World**

In our pursuit of a life of worship, we face the constant challenge of not conforming to the pattern of this world. The world seeks to shape us according to its values, priorities, and behaviors, which are often contrary to God's kingdom. The call of the Christian is one of non-conformity, resisting the pressures to fit in and instead choosing to stand out as a beacon of light and truth.

### **5. The Transformation: Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind**

Transformation lies at the heart of sacrificial worship. Paul instructs us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This transformation is not something we achieve on our own; it is the work of the Holy Spirit within us. It involves a fundamental change in how we think, perceive, and understand the world around us.

Renewing our minds requires a steady diet of God's Word, prayer, and spiritual disciplines. It is allowing God's truth to reshape our thoughts, attitudes, and imaginations. As our minds are renewed, our lives are transformed, reflecting the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

### **6. The Result: Discernment of God's Will**

Finally, a life of true sacrificial worship results in the ability to discern God's will. We become more attuned to His voice and direction as we offer ourselves to Him, resist

conformity to the world, and embrace transformation. Our desires align with His, and we gain clarity regarding His purposes for us.

Dear friends, let us embrace the call to live a life of true sacrificial worship. May we continually offer ourselves as living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to God? May we resist the patterns of this world and allow His truth to transform our minds. As we do so, we will experience the fullness of life in Christ and become vessels through which His love and grace can flow into the world.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. Help us to live lives of true sacrificial worship, offering ourselves completely to You. Transform our minds and hearts so that we may discern Your perfect will and walk in Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Call to Action**

Start and end each day with intentional moments of prayer, worship, and reflection in God's presence.

Integrate worship into your daily routine by offering prayers, praises, and thanksgiving throughout the day.

Engage in worshiping together with other believers outside of church gatherings

Commit to regularly attending and participating in corporate worship services.

Engage in worshiping together with other believers outside of church gatherings

### **Quote from a Church Father**

“The more we worship in spirit and in truth, the more we become like Him whom we adore.”

- **Bede the Venerable**

### **Conclusion:**

As we embrace a lifestyle of true worship, inviting God's continual presence into every aspect of our lives, we are transformed into vessels of His love and light, impacting the world around us for His glory.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, may our lives be a continual offering of worship in spirit and truth as we seek to honor you in all that we do and reflect your glory to those around us.

**Benediction:**

May the presence of God dwell richly in your life as you live out a lifestyle of true worship, shining with His light and love for all to see. Amen

**Main Point 1: Worship in Spirit**

1.1 Refraining from Idolatry (Exodus 20:3-4, Deuteronomy 4:15-17)

God's demand for loyalty is clear in the commandments given to Moses: "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Exodus 20:3-4). In Deuteronomy 4:15-17, God reinforces this command by forbidding the creation of images to represent Him. This prohibition stems not just from His transcendence but from His desire for genuine devotion and loyalty from His worshipers.

True worship involves turning away from physical or metaphorical idols and dedicating ourselves wholly to God. Idolatry can take many forms in modern life, including materialism, self-reliance, and neglect of spiritual disciplines. Worship in Spirit requires a heartfelt commitment to placing God above all else, thus aligning our lives with His love and command.

### 1.2 Living by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Paul states in 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Worshiping in the Spirit encompasses living a life transformed by the Spirit of God. This transformation is evidenced by the nine fruits of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

When we exhibit these fruits, our lives become a living testimony of true worship. Our actions, attitudes, and interactions reflect the character of God, making our daily lives an ongoing act of worship. Thus, worshiping in the Spirit means embodying the attributes of God through the power of His Spirit within us.

## **Main Point 2: Worship in Truth**

### 2.1 The Nature of Truth (John 14:6, John 18:37-38)

In John 14:6, Jesus unequivocally declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Furthermore, when questioned by Pilate in John 18:37-38, He states, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth." Through these declarations, Jesus defines the truth as something objective and absolute, rooted in His very being.

### 2.2 Understanding Truth

Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of human knowledge. Truth is transcultural and unchanging even though human beliefs about it may vary. Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it. Therefore, although contrary beliefs are possible, contrary truths are not. This principle of truth is essential for worship, as it compels us to align our worship with the unchanging truth of God as revealed in Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ.

## **Main Point 3: Divine Connection in Worship**

### **3.1 Fostering Intimacy**

Worshiping God in spirit and truth fosters an intimate and deep connection with Him. This connection transcends mere formality or ritual; it is a transformative relationship. When we worship God in alignment with His Spirit and His truth, we are drawn closer to His heart, experiencing His presence and His power in profoundly personal ways.

Quote from a Church Father:

**“In true worship, the soul lies prostration humility and rises again through love.”  
-Bernard of Clairvaux**

## **Conclusion**

As we worship God in spirit and in truth, with sincerity, authenticity, reverence, and biblical understanding, we establish a deep connection with Him that transforms our lives and draws us nearer to His heart.

## **Call to Action**

### **1. Cultivate an Atmosphere of Reverence and Awe**

In your personal and communal worship, acknowledge and honor God's holiness and majesty. Approach Him with a sense of reverence and awe, recognizing His greatness and sovereignty in every aspect of your life.

### **2. Deepen Your Understanding of God's Word**

Immerse yourself in Scripture. Allow God's Word to shape your understanding of worship, guiding you to align your worship with His revealed truth. Study, meditate, and apply biblical truths to enrich your worship experience [citation:2].

### **3. Embody Worship through Actions**

Demonstrate your worship not just through words but through actions. Live out the fruits of the Spirit in your daily interactions, making your life a continuous act of worship that honors

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, guide us to worship you in spirit and in truth, with sincerity and reverence, as we seek a deeper connection with you through our worship.

## **Benediction**

May your worship be characterized by sincerity, reverence, authenticity, and biblical truth, leading you to a deeper, more intimate connection with God. **Amen**