

# BIBLE STUDY

## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES TO LIVE BY FOUND IN ROMANS 12

### PRINCIPLE/VALUE

Sacrifice and Surrender.

### HISTORY OF ROMANS

Romans is a letter written to both Jews and Gentiles living in Rome.

Romans was written around AD 57/58.

### WHO WROTE ROMANS

Paul, the Apostle, wrote Romans.

The apostle Paul founded and shepherded several different churches during his lifetime. When his journeys took him to a new destination, he maintained contact with congregations through letters. In these letters, Paul encouraged, taught, chastised and challenged church members.

### WHY WAS ROMANS WRITTEN

The theme of Romans is Gods righteousness. Paul taught that Gods righteousness is to be lived out in the lives of believers. We need to live out the truth, not just know it.

## ROMANS 12:1

**“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.”**

Read through Romans 12:

Try and establish the following:

- ✦What message is the writer trying to convey to us?
- ✦What is the main theme about this piece of text? Clue: you will find it in the very first verse.

Paul, **urges** us - (the NLT uses the word ‘**pleads**’) believers to offer up our lives and our own will and to surrender it to the Lord as a living sacrifice. So what is required of us is: **Sacrifice and Surrender.**

God calls us to make a choice in this life - His will or ours? Do we really want to live for Him? Sometimes, it’s easier said than done. However, Paul is pleading with us to remember the great mercies that God has bestowed upon us in Christ.

What mercies is Paul referring to? Gods grace, our redemption in Him, our adoption into His Kingdom, our assurance of salvation, the given Holy Spirit, confidence in the truth that nothing can separate us from Gods love - all these mercies, are Gods gift to us.

However, It’s not conditional - we still have a choice. Hence, Pauls pleads for us to offer up our lives as sacrifices to the Lord. Often, we find that as we do this; our lives are richly blessed.

## OUR RESPONSE

- **Read: Romans 12**
- **Ephesians 4:1** - "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."
- Journal your thoughts on what it means to live a life of sacrifice and surrender.
- Think about all the mercies of God that Paul has explained to us: **Read: Ephesians 1 and Ephesians 2:1-9.**
- In the above passage, circle all the mercies that you have received *in Christ*.
- Let's look at the following definitions:
- **Surrender:** to resign from our own will, for that of the Lords.
- **Sacrifice:** to offer up 'our bodies' - our entire being to serve the Lord in view of His great mercies.
- **Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your great mercies, love and faithfulness. Please help me unpack this word and show me what is meant by living a life of surrender and sacrificially offering my body unto your plan and purpose. Holy Spirit, please highlight the areas in my life that I haven't fully surrendered and help me chase away the entanglements of my human and sinful nature. I pray that the power of your word and truth would captivate my heart and open up my eyes to the unseen truths of your great gospel. Amen!

***So how do we offer up our bodies as living sacrifices?***

We choose to live a life - in light of what God has done for us.

Pauls urges us to live a life according the Gods Word and a life worthy of the Christian faith.

**Ephesians 4:1** - "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

**Romans 6:13-14** - "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

**1 Peter 2:4,5,9** - "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

We can't call ourselves Christians on a Sunday and then come Monday morning, we become different people. We need to live lives that are worthy of the Christian name. To be a Christian means to be a follower of Christ.

Are you a follower of Jesus? Then, we are urged to live lives that represent this truth that we claim.

**Let's learn to be dedicated followers of the Lord, drenched in deep devotion unto our King.**

Often times, this very attitude of surrender looks more like the mundane of decision making rather than the miraculous. It's the little, daily acts of obedience, surrender and sacrifice to God and His will.

To live a life of surrender is not a call to live a life at the hand of a puppeteer. It is a call to live a praiseworthy life, privileged to receive this incredible freedom filled, gospel centred truth.

***'The person who loses his life, will find it' - Michael Eaton.***