

In view of God's mercies, we will present...

Romans 12:1-2

Bridging Rom. 1-11 to Rom. 12-16

"Therefore..."

"Therefore" causes us to look back to what has been taught for the purpose of looking forward to its application.

C.J. Mahaney says, *"...change does not take place until we apply what we are learning in very specific ways, at very specific times, and always in dependence on God's grace to make our efforts effective."*

"The reason for the teaching about the grace of God is for the living of the Grace of God."

"...I urge you, brethren..."

Biblical response to doctrine=application

In order for the grace of God to have its intended effect, it must be lived:

2 Cor. 1:15-16a *For we are a¹ fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.*

the glory of God's grace is demonstrated in the living of God's grace.

"...by the mercies of God..."

Paul basis his urging on the strongest possible motive:

the "mercies of God."

Why?

Grace motivated and empowered living

Paul knows that only the grace of God motivates and empowers righteous living;

What are the "...mercies of God..." ?

In the first eleven chapters, we have been introduced to the many mercies of God as He has moved to bring us out of the pit of death into His heavenly Home.

†As we remember them, let's ponder them †

The power and purpose of the gospel [1:16]
the righteousness of God [1:17]
our sin [1:18-3:20]
God's Remedy for our sin [3:21-31]
Saved by grace through faith [4:1-25]
Peace and security with God [5:1-21]
No longer slaves to sin [6:1-23]
Freed from condemnation and guilt [7:1-25]
living victoriously for the glory of God [8:1-39]
Chosen, saved and kept by God's sovereign will [9-11]

in view of the mercies of God

We are now the children of God,
we are the recipients of God's many blessings,
we are the very objects of God's great and enduring love and mercy.
We will be with the Lord in heaven forever.

What mercy, what love, what a God.

In view of all of this mercy, what are we to do?

What we are to ... "...present..."

Paul is calling the church to participate in the grace of God .

Phil. 1:3,5

We can do what He commands=Why?

Phil. 2:13 *because it is God Who is at work in us...*

We have the relationship with God=children [1 Jn.3:1]

We have the reason=His mercies [Rom. 12:1]

We have the Resource=the Holy Spirit [Rom. 5:5] and the Word [2 Tim. 3:16-17]

What are we to present to God?

“...your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God...”

*In presenting our bodies, we are presenting **everything** to God, every possession, every relationship, every thought, motive, attitude, action, desire, all of our hopes, all of our past and future, EVERYTHING.*

Why are we to present our bodies to God?

Because we belong to God 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Lest we think that presenting our bodies to God is something unique, let's remember that this is exactly what we did before we were saved:

We presented our bodies to sin=

Rom. 6:12-13a

Now, in the same way, we are to present our bodies to God for His purposes=

Rom. 6:13b

When we are tempted to sin, we have a choice:

Do I present my self to sin or to God?

In the same way that we “presented our bodies to sin”, we are **now** to “present our bodies to God” for His rule.

We are to present our bodies

...as a living and holy sacrifice...

The imagery is that of the priest who presented the animal for sacrifice to God for the atonement of sin.

According to **1 Peter 2:9**, we are “a royal priesthood”

Now that we are “a royal priesthood” we are to “present” our own “bodies” to God for His purpose, which is that we are to be a living and holy example of Jesus Christ.

*this sacrifice is a **continual presenting** of our bodies and is to occur daily in the places*

where we live so that the world can see that God's people are living examples of His holiness.

What is the result of our presenting our bodies to God?

"...which is your reasonable service of worship."

It is the only decision which makes eternal sense=reasonable

ONLY when we present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices to God, we true **worshippers of God.**

Conclusion:

In view of God's mercy, is there any other response that makes sense?

Is there anything or anyone other than God to whom we should dedicate our lives?

Is there any other who can be trusted to do good for us other than God?

Is there any other who forgives us and cleanses us from all sin?

Is there any other source of Eternal Life?

Is there any other Who can destroy the works of the devil in us?

Is there any other who cares for us like Jesus?

Is there any other source of love that builds us up, that protects us, that provides for our every need, that is patient and kind and good to us like God's love?

As the Apostle Peter said to Jesus:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have words of eternal life.

The question for us today is:

To whom will we go and what else should we do in view of the mercies of God for us?

Is there any other reasonable response for a believer than to do what the apostle exhorts?

