

Community Group Study: Living Sacrifices

The Path to Joy – Part 1 | Romans 12:1-2 | week of February 19

GETTING STARTED

- When you were young, how did peer pressure affect the way you dressed?
The way you acted?

CONTEXT

- Read - and briefly summarize - what these verses from Romans 1-11 tell us about “the mercies of God”:
 - Romans 1:16-17
 - Romans 3:23-24
 - Romans 5:1-2
 - Romans 8:1, 38-39

Read Romans 12:1-2.

OBSERVATION

- What commands (or appeals) does Paul make in this passage?
- What is the intended result of those commands?

MEANING

- How do “the mercies of God” serve as the basis for or foundation of Paul’s commands?
- What does it mean to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice”?

APPLICATION

- When you consider your own sanctification (the process of becoming more and more like Jesus), where have you seen the most progress? Where do you see the greatest need for future progress?
- How do you see the influence of the world shaping the Christians you know? How do you see it shaping you?
- Paul calls upon us to “be transformed” by the renewal of our minds. What habits and disciplines can we put in place to allow the Spirit of God to do the heart-transforming, mind-renewing work that Paul describes?
- Let Romans 12:2b serve as a diagnostic test for your heart. In what areas of life do you struggle to see the will of God as “good and acceptable and perfect”?

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NEXT STEPS

- Meditate on and memorize Romans 12:2. Write a prayer asking the Lord to help you see how the world is squeezing you into its mold. Ask him to grant you the grace to repent and to “be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”