

May 17, 2020

Speaker: Chase Hildenbrand **Series:** This I Believe -The Book of Romans

Passage: Romans 12:1-2

Community Group Questions: "Take My Life, Let It Be"

Background: These two verses are the hinge point in Romans. Chapters 1-11 are all about doctrine (what we are to believe); in chapters 12-16, Paul is going to flesh out our duty as believers (how are we to behave). In Romans 12:1-2, Paul urges believers to offer themselves as living, holy, and acceptable sacrifices to God in view of God's mercies. In view of all that God has done through the person and work of Jesus Christ, what is to be our response? Read Romans 12:1-2 together and discuss the following questions.

1) Paul encourages us to sacrifice our lives to God based on, "the mercies of God." What are some of the mercies of God that Paul has fleshed out in chapters 1-11? Why do we tend to forget God's mercies? What can we do to keep God's mercies on the forefront of our minds -- thus motivating us to live on the altar?

2) Paul says that our bodies are to be a sacrifice to God, and he describes our sacrifice in three ways: living, holy, and acceptable.

- Why is it difficult to be a living sacrifice? Why is it worthwhile to be a living sacrifice?
- What does the idea of being a "holy" sacrifice imply?
- To be an "acceptable" sacrifice means to be a sacrifice that "pleases." How might God be pleased with your sacrifice? How might your sacrifice be lacking?

3) In verse 2, Paul tells us HOW we are to offer our lives as a sacrifice: by not conforming to this world (present age), and by being transformed by the renewing of our minds. In what ways is it easy for you to conform to this world? How do you battle against that temptation? Describe a time in which God's Word brought transformation to your life by the renewal of your mind. Here, Paul is talking about progressive transformation. What habits do you have to help you progressively transform more and more into the image of Christ?

4) Finally, Paul gives us the WHY. The reason we offer ourselves as a sacrifice to God is so that we might accomplish His will (God's will is good, acceptable, and perfect). Often times in Christian circles, people believe that they need God to reveal His will to them, when in fact, God's will has already been revealed through His Word. We don't need *revelation* of God's will, we need *resignation* to God's will (be a living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice to God!). Do you tend to doubt God's good, acceptable, and perfect will in your life? How so? What tensions have you experienced walking in obedience to His will? Describe a time when you weren't sure about the goodness of God's will, but after the act of obedience, you saw how it was good and praised God for it.