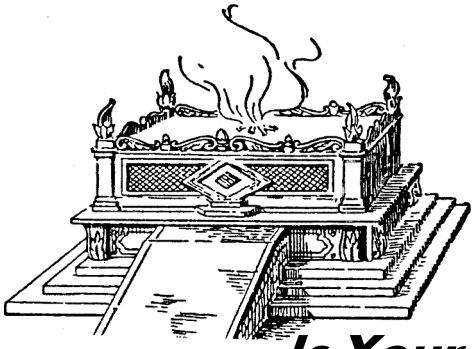
"GIVING GOD YOUR ALL"

Romans 12:1, 2
8-23-2020

INTRODUCTION: V. 1a

***Because of God's mercy, you (as a believer) should fully surrender your life to God.**

What does full surrender mean?



Is Your All on the Altar?

I. Full Surrender is:
Letting God <u>HAVE</u> your life
(A <u>sacrificed</u> life - v. 1)

A. What kind of sacrifice does God want?

1. A <u>living</u> sacrifice

2. A <u>holy</u> sacrifice

3. An <u>acceptable</u> sacrifice

B. Why should you give such a sacrifice?

--It is "your reasonable service"
(sacrifice is the logical, intelligent choice)



Or Are You Selling Out to the World?

II. Full Surrender is:
Letting God <u>CHANGE</u> your life
(A <u>transformed</u> life - v. 2)

A. The <u>Enemy</u> of a transformed life: The world's mold

B. The <u>Entrance</u> into a transformed life: A renewed mind

C. The <u>End Result</u> of a transformed life: The will of God

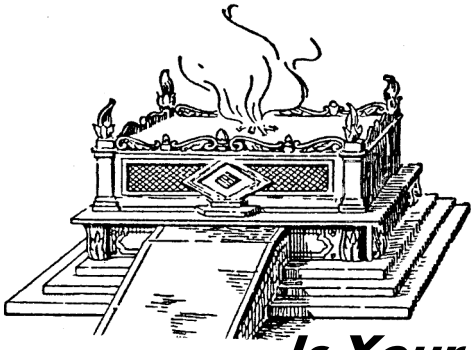
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Is Your All on the Altar?

I. Full Surrender is:
Letting God _____ your life
(A _____ life - v. 1)

A. What kind of sacrifice does God want?

1. A _____ sacrifice

2. A _____ sacrifice

3. An _____ sacrifice

B. Why should you give such a sacrifice?

--It is "your reasonable service"
(sacrifice is the _____)



Or Are You Selling Out to the World?

II. Full Surrender is:
Letting God _____ your life
(A _____ life - v. 2)

A. The _____ of a transformed life: The world's mold

B. The _____ into a transformed life: A renewed mind

C. The _____ of a transformed life: The will of God

"GIVING GOD YOUR ALL"

Romans 12:1, 2
8-23-2020

INTRODUCTION: V. 1a

Great Salvation Texts in Romans: 3:23-24; 4:7-8; 25; 5:1, 6-8; 6:23; 8:1; 10:9-10, 13; 11:11-12; 33-36.

Our God has done so much for us undeserving sinners. He is worthy of our lives!

The book of Romans (like Ephesians, etc.) naturally breaks down into two divisions.

Chapters 1 - 11	Chapters 12 - 16
Doctrine	Duty
The way of salvation	The walk of salvation
The pardon of the believer	The practice of the believer
Salvation acquired	Salvation lived out
(EX: Phil. 2:12-13)	

V. 1

"I beseech you" = I am encouraging, exhorting, urging you

"The word was used in classical Greek of exhorting troops who were about to go into battle" (Reinecker, p. 375).

"Brethren" - brothers (not physically or ethnically related to Paul -- since the Church at Rome was predominantly Gentile (Rom. 1:13, 11:13, 15:15-16) -- but brothers in Christ, fellow Christians.

The appeal to surrendering one's body, not being conformed to the world, and to know God's will is for those who are saved, not for those who are unsaved.

It is futile to teach a lost person how to live the Christian life, since he is not a Christian.

The exhortation to believers implies that not all have done it.

"By the mercies (compassionate pity) of God" - the basis for such an exhortation to full surrender is "the mercies of God."

In other words, since God has been merciful to you (11:30-32), since God has saved you, since you are a child of God, you should accept this admonition.

"The great compassion of God should move us to dedication" (Custer, BJU, "Viewpoint" Romans, p. 55).

We received mercy (Titus 3:5; I Tim. 1:13, 16)

We are receiving mercy (now)
(I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2; II Jn. 3; Jude 2)

We will receive mercy (Jude 21; II Tim. 1:18)

God is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4.

God's mercy endureth forever (Ps. 136)

God's mercy is for those who ask for it (Lk. 18:13).

***Because of God's mercy, you (as a believer) should fully surrender your life to God.**

What is full surrender?

Various ideas and opinions -

Some would say full surrender is:
--cutting back on drinking or smoking
--not doing anything against God
--attending a church once a week
--throwing a $20 bill in the offering plate
--denying self of certain foods or pleasures

What does full surrender mean?

I. Full Surrender is:
Letting God HAVE your life
(A sacrificed life - v. 1)

"To present" - Aorist tense - a once and for all dedication (but one that must be remembered and renewed). . . to yield, offer, give, or hand over.

God does not force it. It brings more glory to Him when we willingly offer it to Him (EX: Rom. 6:13, 19 - "yield members")

"To present" = lit. to place beside; a technical term for offering a sacrifice.

"Your bodies" = the whole person; your body and everything in it; which includes your heart (affections) and mind (will, volition, decision-making).

NOTE: The Greeks depreciated the body, viewed it as a prison house, as evil. They worshipped the mind and thinking.

However, the Bible says: Your "body is the temple of the Spirit of God (I Cor. 6:19-20).

God wants you more than what you have.

Giving yourself to God recognizes rightful ownership.

"Sacrifice" -

EX. of O.T. sacrifices. Sin offerings, guilt offerings, free-will gift offerings, peace offerings and whole burnt offerings.

O.T. sacrifices are now obsolete.

Our service of worship is a giving of ourselves.

NOTE: In O.T. it wasn't merely the animal that pleased God; it was the attitude (and amount of sacrifice) of the giving that pleased Him.

A. What kind of sacrifice does God want?

What type of sacrifice does God want? A living, holy, and well-pleasing ("acceptable") sacrifice.

1. A living sacrifice

--As opposed to dead (like O.T.)

Implies a sacrifice of your life now.

Many are supposedly willing to die for God, but never totally live for Him.

The evidences of a living sacrificed life are the fruits of sacrifice, which include:

1) Praise
2) Thanks
3) Doing right
4) Sharing (giving) - Heb. 13:15-16 - "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

2. A holy sacrifice

"Holy" = set-apart, pure.

Just as the O.T. sacrifices were to be holy (unblemished and undefiled), so are we.

Positionally, we are totally holy (I COR. 6:11; Acts 26:18).

Our name denotes our holiness - "saints"

God's nature demands our holiness - "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

a. How are we made holy?

"Sanctify (make holy) them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth" (Jn. 17:17).

b. Why should we be holy?

So that we might be "sanctified and meet (suitable) for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Tim. 2:21).

We are not "holy" sacrifices, if we are not "set apart" (transformed from the world (v. 2).

3. An acceptable sacrifice

"Acceptable = well-pleasing; satisfying to God.

Just as righteous O.T. sacrifices were a "sweet savor" to the nostrils of God, so you must be.

What scent does your life bring up to God?

The O.T. sacrifices had to meet specifications - Why? They were a type of Christ. We must give God what He wants and the way He wants it, or it is unacceptable.

"Acceptable" - God does not want you on your terms, but on His. You cannot give God garbage [EX: Israel's repulsive O.T. sacrifices - Mal. 1:6-13 - "Neither will I accept (v. 10) . . . Should I accept this (v. 13?"]

What is an acceptable sacrifice?

a. A clean sacrifice

Salvation is a prerequisite.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord."

Only a saved individual is called: "a royal priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Undefilement is a prerequisite.

Unacceptable sacrifices are those which are defiled (unclean) sacrifices (SEE: Mark 7:20-23).

Jesus Christ specifically names some defiled people:

1) Those with a bad tongue (v. 20) (sinful speech - cp. James 3:6). "That which cometh out of the man" - specifically from his mouth - cp. parallel passage Mt. 15:18)

2) Those with evil thoughts (lust, etc.) -v. 21

3) Those involved in extra-marital affairs (adulteries)

4) Those involved in pre-marital sex (fornications - also includes other types of sexual immorality)

5) Those who take the life of innocent people (EX: abortion. NOTE; Hatred is on equal par with murder - Mt. 5:21-22)

6) Those guilty of taking what did not belong to them ("thefts")

7) Those who idolize things that belong to others ("covetousness")

8) Those who think, plan, & do evil ("wickedness")

9) Those who lie (deceive by not telling the truth)

10) Those who dress immodestly or act indecently (lasciviousness = sensuality, lewdness)

11) Those who envy others (jealousy) (an "evil eye")

12) Those who speak against God or His Word ("blasphemy")

13) Those who think too much of themselves ("pride")

14) Those who live for vanity ("foolishness" = lit. those who live their lives without thinking seriously)

An unclean sacrifice is no sacrifice!

A true sacrifice is one that costs you something.

To live in sin and offer yourself to God is to give God garbage.

b. A complete sacrifice

When a sacrifice was made in ancient Israel on the brazen altar, the sheep, goat, or calf was given completely over to God to be burned with fire. The offerer could lay no further claim on it.

In Leviticus chapter 1, the first offering required after the great Passover sacrifice was the burnt offering. Just as the offering of Christ on Calvary symbolized the passover lamb and our salvation, the whole burnt offering symbolizes our total dedication.

--You either are completely given over to God, or you are not.

*It's all or nothing!

To be acceptable, it must be all (no man can serve two masters).

B. Why should you give such a sacrifice?

--It is "your reasonable service"
(sacrifice is the logical, intelligent choice)

"Reasonable" - we derive our English word "logic" from the Greek.

The believer's devotion to God as a living sacrifice is not an unreasonable demand. It is very logical, a very intelligent choice.

Our complete sacrifice is very logical for two reasons:

1. Sacrifice is the logical response to God's ownership of my life.

In light of the mercies of God, the most reasonable response of the believer would be total devotion.

Poem: "After all He's done for me..."

If you are saved, God is not asking you to give Him anything that is not His already (our spirit and our body is God's already - I Cor. 6:19, 20).

ILLUS: It would be foolish for you to buy a car and not use it. God bought you and now desires to use you. It would be wrong for the one from whom you bought it to demand it back after the price was paid. Christ paid the price to buy you. If He has bought you, what right do you have to selfishly reserve the rights to your life?

2. Sacrifice is the logical key to the abundant life

The Lord Jesus did not give you eternal life so that life would be a drag (dull and boring). Rather, He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

The most <u>intelligent</u> decision in the world is to dedicate your life to Christ, when you realize the rewards of such dedication.

The most irrational, <u>foolish</u> decision would be to not surrender all.

Our amount of joy is determined by the degree to which we surrender to God.

Someone who surrenders all (has nothing held back) lives the most abundant life.

II. Full Surrender is:
Letting God CHANGE your life
(A transformed life - v. 2)

A. The Enemy of a transformed life: The world's mold

"Be not conformed" - stop allowing yourselves to be put into a mold or form (present, passive imperative).

Evidently, some of the Roman Christians were being influenced by the pagan Roman society, hence the present imperative calls for a stopping of a lifestyle already in progress.

"Conformed" - cookie cutter or mold

"This world" - lit. this "age" (aion) in contrast to the coming one.

This age is called an "evil age." (I Cor. 2:6, 8; Gal. 1:4)

Beware of the New Age Movement.

Is your thinking like this age?

If all of our calculations, plans, ambitions, decisions, etc., are determined by what falls within life here, then we are thinking like children of this age.

God is calling on us to not allow ourselves to be cloned into the spiritual and moral characteristics of the times in which we live.

Whether you realize it or not, the world (instigated by spiritual wickedness & demonic forces) is specifically trying to mold (structure) your mind (your way of thinking) - via the media (TV, radio, movies, magazines, books, etc.)

Don't be deceived into thinking that you have to match the world's fashions, thinking, planning, speaking, etc.

We are not to be like the world - READ Eph. 4:17-19

Love not the world (kosmos) - I John 2:15-17

Being salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16), we are to be distinct from the world.

Don't be like a chameleon, which takes its color from its surroundings.

Believers must learn to swim against the tide (drift) of this age.

We must be willing to cut across the grain of this contemporary world-view. Even if it means standing alone.

B. The Entrance into a transformed life: A renewed mind

"Be ye transformed" = lit. "allow yourself to be changed in form" (pres. pass. imper.)

"Metamorphoo" - from which we get our English word metamorphosis, which means to undergo a change in physical form, structure, or substance, usually resulting in a striking alternation in appearance and character.
EX: catapillar into a butterfly
tadpole into frog

EX: Modern toys called "transformers" change their shape.

The secret to being transformed is "by the renewing of your mind."

"Renewing" = to be new again; to have a restructured thought life; a new way of thinking or philosophy of life in contrast tot he world.

Like spring cleaning is to a house, so Bible reading and instruction is to the mind.

"Mind" - the seat of understanding, where we think, perceive, and determine our actions and attitudes.

"You are what you think" (what you think is what you are).

To have a renewed mind is to have our minds brought back to the conditions of Adam's mind before sin entered the world (God-centered, pure, productive thought life).

Eph. 4:23 - "renewed in the spirit of your mind"

Being "brainwashed" is good, if it is God's Word that is doing the washing! (Eph. 5:26).

You will be brainwashed one way or the other - either by the world or by God. You must choose to whom you will listen.

When you read the Bible, you will not remember everything, but it will change you. ILLUS: of bucket with holes in it (some water leaks out, but it cleans the bucket in the process). ILLUS: I don't know what I ate last Monday, but I know I was nourished by it.

C. The End Result of a transformed life: The will of God

The reason why we should refuse to be conformed to the world, and the reason why we should have a transformed mind is so that we might know God's will for our lives.

"That you may prove" - in order that you may accept after testing.

The word "prove" describes the transformed mind's ability to examine the crossroads of our lives and to determine which direction would be God's choice.

We need to know God's will in regards to:
1) Morals of right and wrong
2) Issues which face society
3) Specific direction in our lives
   a) Who to marry
   b) what to do (vocationally)
   c) where to live, etc.

God's will is described in three ways:

1) God's will is "good" -
   It is good - morally (our lives will be clean)
   It is good - socially (our relationships will be blessed)
   It is good - pragmatically (we will be successful - Prov. 3:5-6)
   To not be in God's will is to live a wasted life.

2) God's will is "acceptable" (well-pleasing)

   Knowing and doing what God wants is life's greatest privilege. To please God by knowing and doing His will is life's greatest opportunity.

3) God's will is "perfect"

   It is complete - it's all you need for happiness and success.

   God's will is "good, acceptable, and perfect" - the contrast is the world's mold, which is no good, unacceptable (to God), and infinitely opposite of perfect.

   You who are worldly do not know God's will.

Your perceptions to discern God's will have been numbed, calloused, or cauterized because of their soaking in the world's philosophies, goals, methodologies, etc.

However, when in a moment of decision, when you need to know, "Is this God's will?" -- if you have been living Romans 12:1-2, you will be able to clearly see the true picture in its true light.

CONCLUSION: HYMN- #82, Praises II- "My Life is Yours to Control"