NOTETAKER

Romans Education, Part One – Addendum to Session 19

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

What are the Mercies of God?

* + They are the good things which are given to us by God in response to our faith in Christ

Why are they important?

* + They are the basis for presenting our bodies unto God

What should we be doing with them?

* + We should talking to God about our understanding of what they are and why they were given to us, along with an expression of our gratitude for them

What is the significance of the word “present?”

* + Present involves a more formal act than “to give” which means this is something we are expected to do before God in prayer; this is the 3rd Volitional Testing Point

What does Living Sacrifice involve?

* + Yielding our members as servants of righteousness instead of servants to sin
  + Dealing with sin in our members by means of the doctrine; specifically the first two components of our sanctification: 1) dead to sin, and 2) alive unto God

Being a Living Sacrifice requires:

* knowing what those two components are
* and knowing how they work, or rather, how we employ them.

What are Dead to Sin and Alive unto God?

* They are the first two components of our new identity in Christ in connection with our sanctification.
* They are the replacements for the first two components of our old identity in Adam
* They make it possible for us to live unto God on a daily basis.
* They make it possible for us to be spiritually fit to be utilized by God.
* They make it possible for us to produce the righteousness of God without the efforts of our flesh.
* The doctrine whereby we learn how be a Living Sacrifice comes from Romans 6:1-8:13

What does it mean to be dead to sin?

* It means that our old relationship with sin has been done away with; we are no longer servants to sin

What does it mean to be alive unto God?

* It means that we now have the ability to produce a righteousness that God is pleased with
* Righteousness is not determined by the nature of the act which is committed, but by the source of the act. If the source of our “good deed” is us (our flesh), then the act is condemned as “self-righteous.” If the source is God (what God has provided and given to us as a gift of grace) then the act is righteous.
* When we deal with sin in our members by means of our new identity components of being made dead to sin and alive unto God, when we say “no” to sin because God has set us free from sin and its mastership and because God has made us to be holy (set apart unto Him) for the purpose of serving Him, that is what it means to:
  + Live out of your new identity in Christ
  + Walk after the Spirit
  + Live out of grace
  + Live out of the doctrine

And every time you do that, you are being conformed to the image of God’s Son who said “no” to every temptation of sin on the basis of who He was in God. Jesus was living out of His identity.

We had to be given a new identity but once we were taught about it, then we are to live out of it. That is the only way we can overcome sin by the power of God’s grace and not the power of our flesh.

What does Holy involve?

* + Holy has to do with more than being generally “set apart” unto God as sanctified people, but more specifically involves the issue of being set apart as adult, adopted Sons and Daughters.
  + This kind of “holy” has to do with us being “set apart” for the purpose of having our Father’s wisdom installed in us, making us godly creatures who are capable and trained to labor with Him in His business.
  + This doctrine comes out of Romans 8:14-15

What does Acceptable involve?

* + Acceptable has to do with the doctrines which are designed to give us an absolute confidence in 1) Our Father, and 2) His word.
  + Acceptable means that we trust what our Father says to us in the face of the competing and conflicting wisdoms of this world, of men and of the princes of the world.
  + The doctrines which make us Acceptable are found in Romans 8:16-39.

What is Romans 12:1 asking us to do?

* + Romans 12:1 is asking us to demonstrate that we are prepped and ready for the Sonship Education to begin
  + We are asked to recite, before God in prayer, our understanding of 3 specific issues which have to do with our sanctification and report to Him on how well they are working in us
  + In a nutshell, those three issues concern our ability to deal with sin by walking after the Spirit, to make the intelligent and honest cry of Abba, Father and to be fully persuaded of the integrity of our Father and His word.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

What is working to Conform us to this world?

* + Satan’s course of this world

Instead, we are to be conformed to what?

* + We are to be conformed to the image of God’s Son

How are we to be Transformed?

* + We are transformed by the Renewing of our Mind

What is the Renewing of our Mind?

* + It is the replacing of our old ways of thinking with our Father’s way of thinking

In what way does Paul use the word “Prove?”

* + Paul uses “Prove” to say that are to demonstrate or put on display, the 3 aspects of God’s will

What is the “Good” aspect of God’s will?

* + This is the godly thinking

What is the “Acceptable” aspect of God’s will?

* + This is the godly living

What is the “Perfect” aspect of God’s will?

* + This is the godly labor

What is Romans 12:2 about?

* + Romans 12:2 is the future prospect of our Sonship life
  + Romans 12:2 should be the thing we desire more than any other; to be educated by our Father to think like Him, to be able to do things the way He does them, and to be trained to labor with Him in what He is doing

As you can see, Romans 12:1-2 involves a lot!