

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 12****Romans 12**

Romans 12 begins the practical application of all the Apostle Paul has taught about who we are in Christ Jesus and what He has done for us.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

"Therefore" points us back to the basis for the imperative that is about to be given. In light of God's mercies and the grace He has shown, we are to **present our bodies as a living sacrifice**. The command is to come to a point when we *as believers* offer up our bodies as a whole burnt offering to God, which is our **reasonable service**.

First, it is important that we understand something of the offering and sacrificial system as taught in the Torah. This is the reference Paul is using. He assumes the people to whom he is writing understand what he is referring to in the Bible. The offerings that were given were usually divided into three parts. God received the best and first part of whatever was being offered. The Priests and Levites who served first in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple received the next portion. The one bringing the offering received the final portion. God's portion was offered on the altar. This was true

except for the "whole burnt offering," which was an offering that was brought where the entire offering was given to God to be consumed on the altar for all to see. God received it all. This is the offering that Paul says every believer should offer to God. Our bodies, representing here our entire person (body, soul, and spirit), are to be offered to God. This, according to Paul, is our **"reasonable service!"** λογικὴν (logikēn) λατρείαν (latreian) These Greek words are the words brought over into English in transliteration **"Logical Worship."**

Those of us who have understood that the Lord Jesus gave His life for us to save us from our sins and give us eternal life understand our debt and our obligation to give our lives unreservedly to Him for the rest of our days. We owe Jesus our very lives. He is our life. It is reasonable and logical for us to think this way. The word "worship" is the word transliterated, "Liturgy," which we usually associate with an order of service or a type of worship. The word is the word for **worship** and one of the words for **service**. We must understand that worship is not just praise, singing, listening to preaching, praying, and things we do on Sunday mornings. Rather, worship is service. It is getting involved in service to King Jesus, our Lord and Savior! We owe it to God.

Prayer and Action Steps

The Apostle Paul was talking to followers of Jesus, not lost people. We are commanded to come to the place in our lives as believers, maturing believers, that we offer up our very lives as a whole burnt offering to God and allow Him to consume us. Let's do that right now.