

XII

Total Commitment

ROMANS 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

READ | ROMANS 12:1

THINK ABOUT

Romans 12 begins the final section of the book of Romans. Paul has masterfully explained the doctrinal basis of the Gospel of God — including the results and effects of being justified by faith. Now he is challenging his readers to make a personal response. This response is urgent and all encompassing. The word translated “appeal” or “urge” is used by a general exhorting his troops into battle.

What is Paul asking his readers (and us) to do? Why is it so urgent? Why is it so crucial?

What is Paul referring to when he says “therefore”? Why are “the mercies of God” a great motivation to make the required response? What does it mean? And why should you make this personal response?

APPLY

Paul is assuming his readers have been justified by faith. What is justification by faith? What difference is the Gospel making in your life?

Have you presented your body to Christ in total commitment? What does this mean in your every day life?

This is the response of making a holy sacrifice of worship. In the Old Testament the animals were sacrificed on the altar by the priest. Where do we make our “living sacrifice”?

ASK

Have you made this all-important response of commitment to God? In what way is this an act of “spiritual worship”?

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Do you think this is an act of dedication you make once and for all, or is it to be made repeatedly throughout your Christian life?

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Is your body being used for self-indulgence? Are your hands being used for the glory of God? What about your voice, your mind, and your will? Oswald Chambers said, “I am determined to be absolutely entirely for you and for you alone” (*My Utmost for His Highest*). Is that true of you?

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PRAY

Lord, “take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.” Help me to present my body in this act of total commitment.

EPHESIANS 4:1–3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

PHILIPPIANS 1:20–21

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

COLOSSIANS 3:5–10

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.



SING

“Take My Life and Let It Be” — *Frances Ridley Havergal*

HYMN

“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” — 1 PETER 1:15–16

Take My Life and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted, Lord, to
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of Thy
3. Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my
4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with -
5. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no long - er
6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treas - ure

Thee. Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in
love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with mes - sa -
hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as
mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy
store; take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly,

cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
ful for Thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
ges from Thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.
Thou shalt choose, ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874 🌿 *Tune: Henry A. César Malan, 1827*