

Selected Reading

“To **deny ourselves**, is to abstain from the pleasures of sin, to moderate our sensual appetites, to deny our own interest for the sake of Christ. In short, it is to sacrifice everything inconsistent with our duty to Him, when these come in competition.

To **take up our cross**, is to bear sufferings, to encounter difficulties, and break through them all--in imitation of Jesus Christ, and for His sake.

To **follow Christ**, is to trace His steps, and imitate His example--whatever it costs us.

This is the essential character of every true Christian.

What then shall we think of those crowds among us, who retain the Christian *name*--and yet will not deny themselves of their sensual pleasures, nor part with their temporal interests, for the sake of Christ? Who are so far from being willing to lay down their lives, that they cannot stand the force of a laugh or a sneer for the cause of Christ--but immediately stumble and fall away?

Are they Christians, whom the commands of Christ cannot restrain from what their depraved hearts desire? No! A Christian, without self-denial, mortification, and a supreme love to Jesus Christ--is as great a contradiction as . . .

fire without heat,
a sun without light,
a hero without courage,
or a friend without love! “

By Samuel Davies

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Jeremiah 23:23-29

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 18:1-30

Song #146 ~ Oh the Deep, Deep Love

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 12:1

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #214 ~ Jesus, Thank You

Jeremiah 14:22

Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain?
Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O Lord our
God? Therefore, we hope in You, for You are the One who
has done all these things.

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Text: Romans 12:1

Theme: Present your body as a sacrifice to God.

I) Let the mercy of God motivate you to present yourself as a sacrifice.

A. You cannot offer yourself as a sacrifice until you understand the mercy of God found in Romans 1-11.

~ Notice that Paul identifies God as the source (cf. John 3:16)

1) To understand the mercy of God you must understand the depth of your depravity (Romans 1-3).

2) To understand the mercy of God you must understand justification by faith alone (Romans 4-8).

3) To understand the mercy of God you must understand the doctrine of election (Romans 9-11).

B. To present your **body** as a sacrifice to God is to present all of you (cf. Deuteronomy 6:5).

C. Offer yourself as a living sacrifice.

1) To offer yourself as a living sacrifice is to continue to sacrifice yourself (notice that “living” modifies sacrifice and not body, therefore Paul is not talking about Romans 6:13 [present your members]).

2) Typically, a sacrifice is killed and the struggle is over. To offer yourself as a living sacrifice is to lay down your life, over and over. When you get home from work and the kitchen sink is full again, lay down your life. When your brother takes your favorite toy again, lay down your life.

D. Offer yourself as a holy sacrifice.

1) To offer yourself as a holy sacrifice is to not taint the sacrifice with impure motives. Every aspect of the sacrifice is set apart.

2) It is not enough to simply lay down your life, you must fight against every impure motive and thought. As a mother, when you serve your family this week, sacrifice every selfish motivation. Serve your family because God has been merciful to you!

E. Offer yourself as a sacrifice acceptable to God.

1) Every sacrifice is difficult, but not every sacrifice is pleasing to God. The standard by which we evaluate a sacrifice is whether God is pleased—not how difficult the sacrifice was.

2) You may be making sacrifices today so that you can enjoy the benefits tomorrow, but that has nothing to do with whether God is pleased. Don’t look to the future to evaluate a sacrifice, ask whether God is pleased.

F. This type of sacrifice is thoughtful-spiritual worship.

1) The word translated in the NASB as “spiritual” is used by the Greek philosophers to refer to logic.

2) In the New Testament, this word is only used here and in 1 Peter 2:2. Peter uses that word to describe the Word of God—specifically that God’s Word is not perishable like grass. But the Word purifies your soul (1 Peter 1:22). Therefore, the Word refers to spiritual.