

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 19:1-6

Song #23 ~ Creation Sings the Father's Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 24:1-23

Song #108 ~ Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 12:11-13

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #257 ~ Look, Ye Saints! The Sight is Glorious

Psalm 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which you have done, and Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

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B. You persevere in tribulations.

1. You persevere in trials by continuing to sacrifice yourself. Paul has already given the motivation—by rejoicing in hope. Paul is thinking of our future glorification (cf. Rom. 8:24-25). When serving others becomes impossible, remind yourself of your future glorification.

C. You persevere by being devoted to prayer.

1. You cannot do this in your own strength, you need supernatural help. In fact, even when you pray, the Holy Spirit intercedes on your behalf (Rom 8:26).

III) When you present yourself as a sacrifice, you serve others in tangible ways.

A. You help other believers in need.

1. The context here is different than in 1st century. In the 1st century, there was a small middle class. Most people were incredibly poor and few were wealthy. In today's context, most Americans are middle class. So the financial need is not the same. But there are many other needs. How can you sacrifice yourself for the needs of other believers?

B. You help strangers in need.

1. The word "hospitality" is the combination of the words "brotherly love" and "stranger". This term clearly refers to someone who is a complete stranger. In the 1st century, Christians often opened up their homes to travelers. Today, there are hotels in every city, so the need is different. But you can serve your neighbor by sharing cookies at Christmas.

## Text: Romans 12:11-13

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

Introduction: Are the phrases in verses 11-12 individual ways to present yourself as a sacrifice or should the phrases be grouped together? Paul intends that we group the phrases together. The 3 phrases in verse 11 refer to 1 idea and the 3 phrases in verse 12 refer to another idea.

1. Paul frequently uses the idea of “serving the Lord” as a motivation (cf. Eph. 6:5-7; Col. 3:22-24). Slaves can obey their masters because they ultimately are serving the Lord.

2. In Romans 8:24-27, Paul has the same group as he does in verse 12 (hope, perseverance, and prayer). It appears as though Paul sees these 3 ideas as grouped together.

3. If these phrases are individual thoughts, they would be vague. For example, “devoted to prayer” is certainly something we all should work on, but it is vague. When coupled with the other phrases in verse 12, being “devoted to prayer” refers specifically to times of tribulation. Certainly, we should be “devoted to prayer” all the time, but in context, we should be “devoted to prayer” in the midst of trials.

I) When you must present yourself as a sacrifice, serve as unto the Lord (12:11).

A. The primary motivation for presenting yourself as a sacrifice is that you are serving the Lord.

1. Even a slave can present himself as a sacrifice, because he serves the Lord (Eph. 6:5-7; Col 3:22-24).

2. The apostles recognized this motivation and called themselves slaves of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1).

B. Since you serve the Lord, your effort must be diligent.

1. This fervency is not only outward but inward—fervent in spirit (cf. Deut. 6:4-5).

2. Our tendency is to be apathetic in our service to the Lord. This was the case for the church at Laodicea. They were apathetic in their “deeds” (cf. Rev. 3:15). Our acts of service are a good test of what’s going on in our heart.

3. When you see opportunities to sacrifice yourself at your home, in your community, and at your church, what do you do? Your tendency, like mine, is to say things like, “let someone else serve”, but let us remember that each act of service is a service unto the Lord.

II) When you present yourself as a sacrifice, you respond to trials a certain way (v. 12).

A. You rejoice in hope.

1. Faith and hope are distinct. Faith is latching on to an objective proof (i.e. by faith I believe that God created the world [cf. Heb. 11:3]). Hope is the anticipation of a future reward (i.e. glorification [cf. Rom. 8:24-25]).

2. Sacrificing yourself for others is a trial. But you can rejoice because you are anticipating the future reward.

3. A pastor who serves the church as a faithful shepherd should anticipate an unfading reward from the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:2-4).