

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy and pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable worship.

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

“Therefore...”

1. Importance of Paul's Order

- Christian behavior is grounded in and motivated by what God has done in Christ
- the exposition of the gospel includes its power in life; it produces a transformation in conduct
- exhortation is still necessary because the flesh is still a real and present danger (we await final redemption)

¹¹ *Do* this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

(Romans 13:11-14)

“Therefore...”

2. “By the Mercies of God”

- Mercy – God's (unmerited) forgiveness of the guilty and tenderhearted compassion for the helpless
- God's mercy in Christ is the motivation and basis of Christian conduct

“Therefore...”

2. “By the Mercies of God”

- we experience God's mercy as a power that exerts a total and all encompassing claim upon us – our only fitting response is equally all-encompassing

“present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy and pleasing to God, which is your reasonable worship.”