

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.*

(Romans 12:1)

What do you think of when you hear the word “worship?”

New Covenant Worship

Excursus on Romans 12:1

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- *logikos* – reasonable (understands the gospel) and genuine (not mechanical)
 - *latreia* – service; implies a total lifestyle of allegiance to God (c.f. Deut. 10:12)

New Covenant Worship

A. Foundations

1) Death and resurrection of Jesus

- Jesus fulfills the outward forms of Old Covenant ritual worship (sacrifice, temple, priesthood)
- these outward forms are now obsolete – their substance and reality is in Christ (Heb. 8:13)

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(John 4:21-24)

New Covenant Worship

A. Foundations

2) The priesthood of believers

- we continually draw near to God as those who have entered the holy place through the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19-22)
- we are a living temple, a holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices to God

⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 2:4-5)

New Covenant Worship

➤ Summary:

New Covenant worship is a continuous activity of engagement with God in the context of everyday life on the basis of Jesus Christ and the life made available through the Holy Spirit

New Covenant Worship

B. Implications

- there is no emphasis on outward forms or rituals
- there are no sacred spaces, times or locations
- there is no sacred-secular distinction
- corporate "worship" is a unique and necessary form of worship as the overflow of a life of worship