

**August 19, 2020**

## **Present Your Bodies**

Take a moment to reread **Romans 12:1-2**. If needed, review the previous two meditations as they form the foundation for the instruction to follow. I would further encourage you to commit these two verses to memory as you meditate upon them.

Paul is pleading with the brethren, on the basis of God's mercy, to do something. What is it that Paul wants them or us to do? We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. We will break this into two parts. First, we will consider the presentation of our bodies and then next week we will consider the living sacrifice that is acceptable unto God.

The Greek word translated present means to stand beside, to exhibit. It pictures a person standing before another to make a presentation. When I was a boy, I dreaded speech class or any type of oral presentation. Ask me to sing or play my trumpet and I was fine, but ask me to speak and fear immediately took over. The result was a presentation that was presented with such rapidity, that no one could remember what I said, only the fact that I said it so quickly. As far as presentations go, I guess you could say they were memorable, but not for the right reasons. In marketing a product, advertisers are keenly aware, that the presentation of the product is just as important as the quality of the product itself. When ordering dinner at a restaurant, one may ask, "What looks good?" We often make decisions based on the appearance or presentation with an expectation that the quality of the product will agree with the quality of the presentation. We are less likely to buy something that doesn't look good or is presented poorly.

In this passage Paul tells us to present our bodies. Our physical body is the vehicle through which we live and interact with the world around us. It is through our physical body that we live out the Christian life. Furthermore, it is through this physical life that others form an opinion about us and the God we claim to serve. If your life was the only Bible that someone ever read, what would your life teach them about your God? To what degree are you living out the Christian life in your body? In what areas might you need to make some changes? Now read **Matthew 6:25**. What do you think Jesus meant by the last phrase, "Is not... the body more than raiment?" What aspects of your life, other than appearance, might cause others to form a right or wrong opinion regarding your God? We will dig a little deeper next week.