

**September 2, 2020**

## **Your Reasonable Service**

Read again, **Romans 12:1-2**. I trust that you are committing these two verses to memory as you meditate upon them. Thus far we have learned that God wants us, as believers, to present our bodies to Him, even though He already has full claim to our body because He has purchased it with Christ's blood and because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit that indwells us. Our body is to be presented as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. This requires us to die to self by denying the desires of our sinful flesh. This week we want to focus on the last phrase of verse 1. Paul says that such sacrifice is our reasonable service. Let's begin by looking at the first word.

What Paul is asking and what God accepts is not unreasonable. The word translated reasonable means logical and has to do with the mind. Humanly speaking, when you consider all that God has done for us, it is only logical that we should serve Him in return. There are two thoughts that encourage us regarding the reasonableness of such a request. First, God will never ask more of us than what He has done for us. God the Father gave His only Begotten Son to die on Calvary's Cross for our sin. He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him – II Corinthians 5:21. Christ gave His life for us. It is only reasonable to expect that we should give our life back to Him.

Second, God will never ask us to do, what He will not enable us or equip us to do. With God's help, nothing shall be impossible. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The truth is, God often asks us to do what we think is beyond our ability. If we have confidence in ourselves, then we will not be dependent upon God, but when we have no confidence in self, we must rely wholly upon God. Only when we rely wholly on God is God able to demonstrate His power through us. II Chronicles 16:9a "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

The second word we want to consider is the word service. The Greek word translated service speaks specifically of our ministry to God and is derived from a root word implying worship. From this definition we learn two very important truths regarding our service to God. First, it is WORK. Christian service is ministry and ministry is work. Ephesians 4:12 specifically refers to the "work of the ministry." Work involves energy, effort, time, and sacrifice. Just because it is reasonable doesn't mean it will be easy.

Second, it is WORSHIP. Many people fail to consider their service or ministry as part of their worship, but it is. As such, it must not be taken lightly. We should hold our ministry in highest regard and give it our highest priority. We should put forth our best effort when it comes to planning and preparing for our ministry. We must be careful not to take a haphazard approach to our ministry. We must guard against anything that would interfere or keep us from fulfilling the ministry that God has called us to do. In the end, reasonable service speaks of our attitude. What is your attitude toward serving God? Are you in need of an attitude adjustment?