



Experience 21: Praise and Worship

Monday, February 8, 2021

Romans 12:1

*Therefore, I urge you
brothers and sisters,
in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies
as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to
God, this is your true
and proper worship.*

In looking at the very first verse of Romans chapter 12, Paul writes to fellow Christians living in Rome to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice. Now bear with me- I'm a sceptic at heart and when I read scripture, I sometimes have to slow

down and ask the question- Why did Paul say this phrase this way? If I were to have written this, I would have said it differently, like "to offer you lives as a living sacrifice..." The word "**lives**" seems just so much more encompassing of a word. To me, "**Lives**" means all aspects of who you are (thoughts, actions, intentions).

But instead, Paul uses the word **body**. He states, "*to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice*". What Paul is saying to us is this: God wants something physical from us. He doesn't just want us to think about Him occasionally or have good intentions toward others- "I had a really good thought about God today!" or "I intended to walk across the street and introduce myself to the new neighbors who moved in last week, but..." Intentions and thoughts are good, but Paul is telling us there is more.

Read the whole verse again. "*Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy*

and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship." God wants us to get out there and do something! There is a physicality in our worship!

Serving God is physical. Love 928 is a demonstration of putting this thought into action! I love the fact that here at CCoF we are willing to suspend weekend services and go out into our communities to serve people and agencies. That is worshipping God! We've been doing these Love 928 Pop-Ups monthly and it has been so good to get out of isolation and serve someone. This is your true and proper worship by offering your body- your time, your presence, and body!

Actions to take

- Write down 2 or 3 physical things you can do today that would bring you closer to God.
- Think about a time you've worshiped God through a service project. How did it make you feel? How did it make the people you were serving feel? How does serving God with our physical bodies help us to share God's love with others?
- Sign up for a Love 928 Pop-Up event this Spring! Our next one will be on Saturday, February 20th. We have one every month, so if you can't join us on Feb 20, look for events in March and later!
- Pray to God for the future opportunities to serve others in ways that point them to Jesus!