



Our True Act Of Worship

“Living with Purpose”

Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

It is hard for me to imagine 2025 is gone and 2026 is here.

When we look back at 2025 we remember the highs the lows, the joy the suffering, the challenges, the achievements, as well as the things we planned to do but for one reason or another we just didn't get to it.

2025 was a blessed year in many ways— God was gracious, kind and generous to us in 2025. Angela and I were blessed with good health except for a kidney stone. We experienced Olivia's achievement of graduating Law School, passing the Bar exam and starting her new career. Our son Cory and his wife Kiana gave birth to Vivienne Sky their first child and our first grand-baby. God blessed Myles and Britton in many ways. We experienced much joy and fulfillment in 2025.

2025 was also a challenging year in many ways— God was also an ever-present help in times of suffering and need. My father, after being ill for several months passed away. Angela suffered a kidney stone. I was involved in two accidents this year (none of which were my fault) The green jeep was totaled but now I have another (new to me jeep). Last week a lady seeking to change lanes, did so without looking right and she crashed into the side of our truck. Neither I or Britton who was with me was hurt but none the less another wreck.

For some, 2025 was a year to remember for others 2025 was a year we would like to put behind us.

We live in a world of routines, rhythms, cycles and seasons. The beginning of a new year is a time to begin again, a time to recalibrate, an opportunity to establish new routines, new rhythms, break old habits and seek to create new ones.

As we begin the new year God placed **Romans 12:1-2** on my heart.

Over the next two weeks we are going to examine these verses of Scripture and discover the God given challenges of Living with Purpose and Leading a Transformed life.

Today in **Romans 12:1** we will discover:

The Context of Romans 12:1-2

The Challenge for every follower of Christ

The Culmination of a life lived for Christ

Scripture

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB

Quotes Of The Day

“Passion fueled by God’s design and purpose for my existence leads to an exciting, meaningful, and fulfilling adventure called life.” — Pat Kilby

“What I am living for and what I am dying for are the same question.”— Margaret Atwood

To comprehend the truth of **Romans 12:1-2** we need to understand the context.

The Context of Romans 12:1-2

“**Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God,** I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.” CSB

Every passage of Scripture as Context, Truth and Application.

Context is important because it describes the situation and circumstance within which something exists or happens. Context helps shed light on a current situation to explain it and give greater understanding.

The word “**Therefore**” refers to the previous verses in **Romans 11:33-36** as well as the previous eleven chapters of the book of Romans.

Romans is a theological letter written to the Christians in Rome to identify and describe Christian Doctrine.

Christian Doctrine is important because it establishes a firm foundation for what followers of Christ believe and why they believe it.

In view of the “**mercies**” of God—

Because of the love, compassion, grace, majesty, greatness, judgments, wisdom, power, and glory of God we should live a different life! A life dedicated to God and His service.

What does living in view of the mercies of God look like?

It looks like Thomas Chisholm— Thomas Chisholm lived a very ordinary life. He explained toward the end of his life, “My income has not been large

at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I have struggled in this life I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness.” During Thomas Chisholm’s life he wrote more than 1,200 poems including several published hymns. Citation: Great Is Thy Faithfulness— the story behind the hymn— Gaither.com

Moved by the Word of God in **Lamentations 3:22-24** that says—“Because of the Lord’s faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. ²³ They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! ²⁴ I say: The Lord is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in Him.” CSB

Thomas Chisholm wrote “**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**” as a testament to God’s faithfulness through his very ordinary life.

Great Is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Though changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for Sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus:

Great Is Thy faithfulness, Great Is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me!

In view of God’s mercies Thomas Chisholm lived a life dedicated to honoring God with his life.

Romans 12:1 teaches us: Context

Romans 12:1 teaches us:

Every Follower of Christ is Challenged to Live with Purpose

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, **I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God;** this is your true worship.

Romans 12:1 from The Message: A Bible written in contemporary language says: “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. [Citation: Eugene H. Peterson, The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language.](#)

The Challenge and Purpose for every follower of Christ is to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

What does presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice mean?

Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice means we give the total sum of ourselves to God just as though we were a sacrifice but still fully alive.”

The phrase translated “**present your bodies**” comes from the Greek words “**Paristemi**” meaning to offer what I have, to lay what I have down or place what I have beside God.

The word translated “**bodies**” comes from the Greek word “**Soma**” meaning the physical body, flesh, blood, bones and organs. The word translated “**bodies**” also carries with the meaning of the total sum of a person’s physical existence— Gifts, abilities, passions, dreams, ambitions, and pursuits.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 “Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought at a price. **So glorify God with your body.” CSB**

The phrase translated “**living sacrifice**” comes from the words “**Zoa**” meaning physical life, to be fully alive as opposed to death.

The word translated “**sacrifice**” comes from the Greek word “**Thysia**” meaning to freely and completely give what is sacred to God as an offering.

In the context of Romans 12:1— In view of God’s mercy toward us, we are challenged to offer to God the total sum of who we are so He can utilize us, however He deems necessary, to accomplish His plans and advance His kingdom on the earth.

What does presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice look like?

Presenting our bodies as a “living sacrifice” looks like a person who is dedicated to God Spiritually, Physically and Morally and is therefore pleasing, acceptable and well thought of by God.

Presenting our bodies as a “living sacrifice” is a choice everyone must make!

There are two ways we can live our lives:

Romans 6:16 “Don’t you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—**either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?** CSB

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:24** “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**”

Two ways we can live our lives:

1. A living sacrifice pleasing ourselves and following our own desires

The greatest example of living for ourselves is seen in the life of the Rich Young Ruler in **Mark 10:17-22** who came to Jesus asking the question **“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

Mark 10:17-22 “As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.”, 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.” 21 Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.” CSB

Three Qualities of a Lifestyle that is Pleasing to Me

My life is about ME

My life is about HERE

My life is about NOW

A relationship with God simply cannot grow when money, sins, activities, favorite sports teams, addictions, or commitments are piled up on top of it.— Francis Chan

Two ways we can live our lives:

2. A living sacrifice pleasing to God by offering our lives to Him

The word translated “**holy**” comes from the Greek word “**Haggios**” meaning dedicated to God and to His service—Spiritually, Physically and Morally.

The word translated “**pleasing**” comes “**Euarestos**” meaning satisfied, acceptable and pleasing to God.

One of the great examples of a human being living to please God is seen in Abraham.

Genesis 22:1-19 “After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he answered. 2 “**Take your son,**” he said, “**your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.**” 3 So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we’ll come back to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together. 7 Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “My father.” And he replied, “Here I am, my son.” Isaac said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide, the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” Then the two of them walked on together. 9 When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” He replied, “Here I am.” 12 Then he said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me.” 13 Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said, “It will be provided on the LORD’s mountain.” 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn,” this is the LORD’s declaration: “Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son, 17 I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on

the seashore. Your offspring will possess the city gates of their enemies. 18 And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command.” 19 Abraham went back to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beer-sheba. And Abraham settled in Beer-sheba.” CSB

From Abraham’s example we learn **Six Qualities of an Acceptable Sacrifice**

Six Qualities of an Acceptable Sacrifice

1. Give What God Requires v.2a
2. Give Our Best v.2b
3. Give It Now v.3
4. Give It By Faith v.5, 7-8
5. Give It Freely v.9
6. Give It All vv.9-10

God’s greatest blessings come to those who honor God by presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

Genesis 22:15-18 “Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn,” this is the LORD’s declaration: “Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son, 17 I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the city gates of their enemies. 18 And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command.” CSB

In **Romans 12:1** we learn:

The Culmination of a life lived for Christ

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; **this is your true worship.**

Culmination is the highest and greatest result, achievement or accomplishment.

The greatest and highest outcome of our life is the true worship of God through presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice.

There is nothing better than giving up everything and stepping into a passionate love relationship with God, the God of the universe who made galaxies, leaves, laughter, and me and you.

— Francis Chan

Every follower of Christ is challenged by God's Word to Live with Purpose!