

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: September 22, 2021
Romans 12:1-2

1. What was it that Paul had just said that would cause him to urge us as he does in this passage?
 - a. He told us that salvation is due to God's mercy and not deserved.
 - b. He stopped to describe the situation of the Jews who were "cut off" because they thought they could pursue righteousness by works of the law without faith in the one who gave the law.
 - c. He reminded us that salvation is by faith and it is only by faith that we remain grafted into the tree.
 - d. He reminded us that unbelief can cause us to be cut out of the tree and the someone else's belief can cause them to be grafted in.

2. What does Paul tell us, who are already his brothers and sisters and have received and comprehended this mercy, to do?
 - a. Worship God by offering our bodies as living sacrifices.
 - b. Stop conforming to the pattern of the world.
 - c. Allow ourselves to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

3. What does it mean to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices?"
 - a. Well, since the old sacrificial system required something to be killed in order to be sacrificed, I assume it is slightly different from that.
 - b. If something was sacrificed, it was no longer any good (nor did it belong any longer) to the owner, but it was given over for God's purpose.
 - c. It is no longer something else that it is the sacrifice, it is our own bodies.

4. What does it mean that "this is true and proper worship?"
 - a. Other forms of worship may be less than true...or improper?
 - b. This is what God really wants from us as an act of worship, not just songs and sayings but obedient sacrifice of our "selves" and our own bodies (see also Isaiah 29:13 or Matthew 15:8).
 - c. Well, it certainly seems to debunk any notion that salvation by faith means a hedonistic freedom to do what we want now that we are free from the law. Rather, it suggests that true salvation by faith leads to a life of worship through obedience.

5. What does verse 2 say that it might look like to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice?
 - a. That we do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world.
 - b. That we are transformed by the renewing of our minds.
 - c. The result will be knowing the will of God.

6. Have you ever had trouble knowing what God's will was? Yes _____ No _____
While there may be more than one possible reason for this struggle, it is good for us to search our hearts and see if there is any part of us that may not be surrendered (or offered as a living sacrifice) to him. Will you do that now? _____
