OUR REASONABLE SERVICE WEEK ONE- "TRANSFORMED SACRIFICE”

ROMANS 12:1- WRITE VERSE

As we start our study into Romans chapter 12, we will start by breaking down the opening verses. Paul opens this section pleading with us to realize what our reasonable service to God is but more importantly in the first verse he is proclaiming how we are to present ourselves to God.

He establishes for us that our service back to the Lord comes by God's mercies and our action of surrender to Him.

Let's start by looking up a few key words and writing down the definitions:

(I encourage you to use a Bible Dictionary or trusted Biblical site for each definition. Blueletterbible.org is a great resource to look up the definitions for each word in a verse.)

Beseech

To Present

Sacrifice

Holy

Acceptable

Reasonable

Service

Now that we have some clarity on what each word means, let's start diving into each section.

"I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN…."

Beseech – to ask or beg with intense urgency, deep emotion
("Beseech." Strong's Concordance, BibleHub, 2026, Biblehub.com.)

As we look at this phrase the first thing that stands out to me is that Paul refers to the reader as brethren!! This means Paul is not talking to the lost but to the child of God, to his fellow followers of Christ!

This is why he is begging them with deep emotion to hear what he is about to say. He wants them, and us, to know the importance of taking hold of what he is about to share.

He could have went straight into the topic, but yet instead he begs them to heed the words that follow!

Read that first part of the verse again but this time with heart taking in what it would be to beg with intense urgency!

"BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, …"

We often overlook unique and wonderful phrases like this when reading through scripture, but it is a keystone to the explanation of what is to follow.

It is only by God's compassion and long suffering (mercies) toward us that we are even allowed the privilege to put action to the rest of this verse. Only by His mercies may we present anything to Him at all.

> But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) Ephesians 2:4-5

(Take a moment to let that profound and glorious truth sink in as you praise Him!)

“THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE,..."

To present – to hand over or bestow something as a gift, honor, or reward

-to formally acquaint one person with another, or to introduce someone (“Present, V.” Merriam-Webster, 2026, Merriam-Webster.com)

Sacrifice - act of offering something valuable to God as an expression of worship, atonement, or thanksgiving. (“Sacrifice.” BibleHub, Topical Bible, URL.accessed 05Oct2026.)

We are not simply to be a living sacrifice, but rather our lives should be a sacrifice that we are formally handing over to God. We are acquainting ourselves, to the Great I AM!

As a "living" sacrifice we are not giving Him what is dead, our old worldly self, but we are offering God what He gave life to, our redeemed selves.

Think about that ... the very minuscule thing that we have to offer God is ourselves and even in that it is only by His mercies that we have been raised to life to have this privilege!

A sacrifice is offered to God in its wholeness with nothing reserved. In the old Testament, the children of Israel brought only the very best to offer before God. So, why would we, the redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ present anything less than our best?

“... HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD,... "

Holy – to be set apart (“Holy.” Strong’s Concordance, BibleHub, 2026, Biblehub.com.)

Acceptable – pleasing agreeable and fully approved by God (“Acceptable.” BibleHub, Topical Bible, URL. Accessed 05Oct2026.)

To bring this together in one thought, “holy and acceptable means. we must be set apart from this world in accordance with

what God has commanded." To be acceptable before God, we must be clean, living in accordance with the word of God. We do not get to dictate what we "feel" is good enough, but rather the scriptures teach us what the Father expects!

(If you would like to dig deeper into what made sacrifices acceptable in the Old Testament and how we can apply it to our lives today, join Wednesday's MORE section!)

Look up the verses below and jot down how they corelate to what Paul is imploring us to follow.

Hebrews 11:6	
Colosisians 1:10	
Ephesians 5:8-10	
Romans 6:13	
Colossians 3:23-24	

"... WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE."

Reasonable (Greek -Logikos)– agreeable to reason, logical/Spiritual, pertaining to the soul {offering an appropriate response to God's truth and mercy} (Thayer&Smith." Greek Lexicon entry Logikos." KJV New Testament Greak Lexicon, 1999.)

Service (Greek – Latreia) -worship/to perform sacred service (Thayer&Smith." Greek Lexicon entry Latreia." KJV New Testament Greak Lexicon, 2002.)

Paul closes this verse with a profound statement....our reasonable service!

We just dove deep into Paul's request, his plea before his brethren to be set apart, to offer all of who they are to God as a gift that is acceptable to the Lord's command and then closes with this at the end.

Now, I don't know about you, but as I researched these words and sought out exactly what Paul was desperately asking of his fellow believers, I'm not certain my conclusion would have been "reasonable service"!

It can be easy to look at this verse and think, "Okay Paul, you are asking us to go above and beyond! Reasonable service, I mean that's okay for you but for me, well...."

And if Paul stopped here, we may think to ourselves, "All that sounds great but how in the world do I live that out in this broken, fallen world?"

Well, I think he anticipated this as he begged his brothers and sisters for a reasonable service, so he continues for the rest of this chapter breaking it down.

So, if in times past you stopped short after verse one or maybe two, then you missed the part on how we walk it out, "the good stuff."

As we close out verse one and dive head first into verse two, remember scripture is not intended for us to grab a verse and run with it but to it is meant for us to take it as a whole in context to more fully understand what the Lord is revealing to us.

I pray you will stay with me as move to verse two.

Romans 12:2 – write verse

Now take a moment and circle the verbs (action words).

The three main verbs are:

Conformed - mold according to external pattern
Transformed-total, radical change of organic nature
Prove - test, scrutinize

"AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED..."

The first two verbs are passive voice which means you aren't actually doing, rather you are allowing an outside force to change you.

They are also imperative mood, which is an active command, with passive action, which means letting yourself be changed, a decision to yield

Then we have that little word "be" before the verbs. So, what does "to be" imply?

The "be" is telling us of a specific posture we should have. It reveals to us that it is a state in which to occupy rather than a list of tasks which allows us to better see that it is not us doing the

work, it is the Holy Spirit within us doing the action as we surrender.

Let's look at this through scripture. What does Galatians 5:19-26 tell us that we are leaving and yet becoming as we are transformed?

Old Self (Be Not Conformed)	New in Christ (Be Ye Transformed)

“BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND,..."

When looking over this list, we can see why we must renew our minds. Often we are taught to look out for number one, to do what we must to satisfy self, but the Lord's way is different. We must transform our minds. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, we are told, “not to be deceived.... such were some of you.”

We must allow the Holy Spirit to renew (renovate revive, refresh) our thinking to God’s will rather than our own selfish desires, habits, and/or what the world tries to tell us.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5

Part of renewing our mind is making sure that we take hold of every thought that is not of the Lord. We can’t continue to think in negative and destructive patterns. When our thoughts wonder we must take them captive and replace them with Godly thoughts.

Take a few moments to write down how the verses below reiterate what Paul is telling us.

1 John 2:15-16	
James 4:4	
Colossians 3:2	

“...THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD.”

Prove (Greek -dokimazō) - to test, try, or examine the quality and truth of something or someone. (Bible Study Tools. (n.d.) Prove. In Bakers Evangical Dictionary of Biblical Theology. 2026, biblestudytools.com)

We aren't testing God to prove Him, rather in our transformed lives we are testifying to God's will which is (perfect), good, and acceptable. We must let our lives and how we live them be the proof of God’s work.

> For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. 1 John 2:16-17

God made a way for us to be brought into new life so that we could forsake our sinful nature and abide with Him forever. In our surrender to God’s will we live as God designed us to live. By changing our thoughts to His thoughts, our ways to His way, we accomplish God's will for us as His created and beloved children.

> Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. Isaiah 55:7-8

As we wrap up week one, it can be a little overwhelming. I mean, it can be easy to look at words like holy, acceptable, living sacrifice and think that is hard stuff. How in the world can I possibly live all of that out?

Yet, Paul calls it our reasonable service, and we can begin to understand that phrase better when we look at this plea in comparison to all Jesus sacrificed and freely gave for us. The very least of what we should do is be a daily offering back to the Lord.

Truly isn't it a rational and logical response to worship our Saviour with all of ourselves, especially in light of the fact that He is our very life.

You may still feel a little dismayed on how to live in your "reasonable service" and, if so, you are not alone, but over the next three weeks we will get a clearer picture on living this out.

