

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2 is the believer's response to God's mercy and grace that has saved them from the condemnation of sin and has given them new life as members of God's eternal kingdom.

Chapters 1-11 theologically explain how a fallen man can be made right before the true and living God. Now, chapters 12-15 explain how that positionally righteous man can live this life pleasing the true and living God.

Chapters 12-15 may be an expansion of what Paul introduced in Romans 6:13 and 6:19. The terminology is the same.

- 6:13, "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."
- 6:19, "I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness."

Romans 12:1 - "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship."

◀ Romans 12:1 ▶

Romans 12 Interlinear

3870 [e]	3767 [e]	4771 [e]	80 [e]	1223 [e]	3588 [e]	3628 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3936 [e]
Parakalō	oun	hymas	adelphoi	dia	tōn	oiktirmōn	tou	Theou	parastēsai
1 Παρακαλῶ	οὖν	ὑμᾶς ,	ἀδελφοί ,	διὰ	τῶν	οἰκτιρμῶν	τοῦ	Θεοῦ ,	παραστήσαι
I exhort	therefore	you	brothers	by	the	compassions	-	of God	to present
V-PIA-1S	Conj	PPro-A2P	N-VMP	Prep	Art-GMP	N-GMP	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-ANA
3588 [e]	4983 [e]	4771 [e]	2378 [e]	2198 [e]	40 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2101 [e]	3588 [e]
ta	sōmata	hymōn	thysian	zōsan	hagian	tō	Theō	euaireston	tēn
τὰ	σώματα	ὑμῶν	θυσίαν	ζῶσαν ,	ἁγίαν ,	«τῷ	Θεῷ» ↔	εὐάρεστον ,	τὴν
the	bodies	of you	a sacrifice	living	holy	-	to God	well-pleasing	which is
Art-ANP	N-ANP	PPro-G2P	N-AFS	V-PPA-AFS	Adj-AFS	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Adj-AFS	Art-AFS
3050 [e]	2999 [e]	4771 [e]							
logikēn	latreian	hymōn							
λογικὴν	λατρείαν	ὑμῶν .							
[the] divinely reasonable	service	of you							
Adj-AFS	N-AFS	PPro-G2P							

The "Therefore" is in reference to all of chapters 1-11 which include:

- Romans 1 the personal and cultural collapse of false worship which is described as "false" and "foolish" (1:25) and with "corrupted minds" (1:28).
 - This is countered correctly here by Paul with "reasonable" (instead of false and foolish) with "renewed minds" (instead of corrupted minds)
- The "how to" of Paul's call in Romans 6 for Christians to present themselves as resurrected and alive from the dead is detailed here in Romans 12:1-2
- Romans 12:1-2 also serves as the heading for the subjects that will follow as Paul gives the imperatives for the believers:
 - 12:3-8 – diversity of gifts
 - 12:9-21 – demand for love
 - 13:8-10 – love fulfills the law
 - 13:11-14 – wakefulness waiting for the Lord

- 14:1-15:13 – food issues with “weak” and “strong”
- 13:1-7 government authorities and their place in this “new world” of the “kingdom of the Christ” and the “new man”

The number one, basic, foundational principle for the positionally righteous believer in Jesus Christ is found in this technique and this command:

- The COMMAND: “Be Transformed”
- The TECHNIQUE: “Renewing Your Mind”

If a believer in Jesus Christ wants to have the right relationship with other believers, society, religion, church, government and God’s other expectations they must begin by renewing their mind.

There must be an intelligent interaction with the Word of God for the believer to attain the correct positioning of himself in relationship to Truth and Reality.

“Urge” (parakaleo) is no longer an instructional word, but a call to action or a command to obey. But, the word Paul uses, “parakaleo”, is not a militant command, but is more of a friendly, compassionate beseeching to do the smart thing. The word has the force of authority, but also the appeal of a friend.

“Mercy” is translated as singular instead of plural “mercies” since the word Paul uses is expressing the Hebrew “*rahamim*” which is the intensive plural intended to mean “great mercy” or “super compassion” Examples are Isaiah 63:15 and Hosea 2:19.

- This “mercy” is the basis for the Christian's response of obedience to Paul's imperatives.

“Yourselves” is somata hymon, or literally “your bodies” which is to communicate the same thing as “your members” (*mele hymon*) and “yourselves” (*heautous*) of Romans 6:13.

“Your bodies” or “yourselves” means more than the physical body, but the whole of the human: soul, mind, body, attitude, intellect, will, etc.

“Offer” and “sacrifices” are clearly references to religious rituals of offerings and sacrifices (example: 15:16). In Jewish worship the priest had to first present themselves as consecrated before they could minister before the Lord.

- See Malachi 1:8-13 concerning blemish

The body is not unholy in itself otherwise God could not accept it or use it.

In Jewish worship the animals that were offered were taken by the priest and presented by the priests. The animals offered had no will, no thought. They were victims of the sacrifice.

But, here the believer is to offer themselves as a “spiritual”. The concept of “spiritual sacrifice” follows the New Testament thought. No longer are literal sacrifices made, but the ancient cultures always had sacrifices to the gods (even the Jewish God.) The New Testament uses these as spiritual sacrifices:

1. 1 Peter 2:5 - “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
2. Hebrews 13:15 - “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices god is pleased.”
3. Romans 15:16 - “...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”
4. Philippians 2:17 (3:3; 4:18) - “But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.”
5. Romans 12:1 - our bodies, or our whole being