

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### Romans 12:1-2 - "A Call To Consecration"

INTRODUCTION: One of the notable features of Paul's epistles is that he often combines doctrine with duty, belief with behavior.

Paul's letter to the Roman Christians is no exception.

Chapters 1-11 – Were Doctrine

Sin, Salvation, Sanctification, and Sovereignty

Now we move into chapters 12-16 – Duty or Service

From – Condemnation – The Wrath of God revealed

To – Salvation – The Righteousness of God revealed

To – Vindication – The Wisdom of God revealed

Chapters 12-15 – Exhortation – The Will of God revealed

The focus of Chapters 12-16 is practical Christian living.

These chapters contain application to the question, "How should we then live?"

First, in our relationship to God.

The answer is found in Romans 12:1-2:

*Romans 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

It's a call to consecration

Consecration means to dedicate yourself to God.

To be right, in all our relationships, we must start with our relationship to God.

Two things summarize our relationship to God in this text:

1. The Consecration of our bodies (vs. 1)
2. The Transformation of our minds (vs. 2)

It starts with our Consecration!

Four Aspects:

1. The Basis
2. The Nature
3. The Demands
4. The Results

### I. The Basis of our Consecration (vs. 1a)

Romans 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,..."*

Two Keys:

1. *therefore,*

How far does it go back? Chapters 1-11 or 11:36

2. *mercies of God*

Romans 9:16, *"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."*

Romans 9:23, *"And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,"*

Romans 11:30, *"For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:"*

Romans 11:32, *"For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all."*

**Lesson: We see the principle that the basis for righteous living and social morality and ethics is Bible doctrine.**

When we call for values, the question will be asked: "Whose values", "Why?"

Paul knew that there is no greater incentive to Holy living than a contemplation of the mercies of God.

The reason we studied Romans 1-11 is because, the greater our comprehension of what God has done for us, the greater our commitment should be.

The same word 'grace' and 'gratitude' come from the Greek noun, 'charis'

Isaac Watts – 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'

"... Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

## II. The Nature of our Consecration (vs, 1b)

The nature of our consecration is given in the last half of verse one, ... *that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (logical) service.*

Our consecration has two prominent characteristics:

1. It's the total commitment of our total person.

Notice the word 'body', it was used for sinful purposes but notice now that it's the temple of the Holy Spirit, so use it to serve and glorify God.

John R.W. Stott – "No worship is pleasing to God which is purely inward abstract and mystical; it must express itself in concrete acts of service performed by our bodies."

2. It's reasonable, or logical

Illustrations: Birds fly, fish swim, etc.

Service or Worship!

R. Kent Hughes – "If we are worshiping apart from commitment to God, it is false worship. We are deceiving ourselves if we are doing 'Christian things' but are not consecrated to Jesus Christ. Sam Shoemaker said: 'To be a Christian means to give as much of myself as I can to as much of Jesus Christ I know.' "

We are to be 'living sacrifices' at home and in the marketplace.

## III. The Demands of our Consecration (vs. 2a)

Notice the two commands:

The first is negative: *be not conformed to this world:*

What does this mean?

It's a call to nonconformity and to Holiness.

*conformed* – refers to assuming an outward expression that does not reflect what is really inside.

*to this world* - is the evil world system apart from God

It's Age – Satan is the ruler of

John 12:31, *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."*

1 John 2:15-17, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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 for ever."*

J.B. Phillips paraphrase of this verse says, *"don't let the world around you squeeze you into it's own mold."*

Sad to say many Christians do!

How?

- TV

Many Churches do too!

Jesus said, "don't be like them!"

Old Testament Illustration: Abraham and Lot

It's hard to live in this sinful world:

At Work

At School

Jesus prayed for us (John 17)

The second is positive (vs. 2) – *"but be ye transformed..."*

From transformed we get our word 'metamorphosis'.

It describes a change from within.

Illustrations: a tadpole to a frog; a caterpillar to a butterfly.

This word is used of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration

- Jesus displayed outwardly His inner divine nature and glory.
- Christians should outwardly manifest their inner, redeemed natures.

How are we transformed?

*"...by the renewing of your mind,...*

If the world controls your mind you are a 'conformer'.

If God controls your mind or thinking, you are a 'transformer'

Illustration: Daniel – he purposed in his heart....

How are our minds renewed?

a) The Spirit of God

*Ephesians 5:18, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"*

b) The Word of God & Prayer

*Jesus prayer in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*

#### IV. The Results of our Consecration (vs. 2b)

A consecrated life has the power to perceive what God's will is (How to know God's will?).

*The New English Bible – "Then you will be able to discern the will of God and to know what is good, acceptable, and perfect."*

The person who is committed to God sees life with a sure eye. While the careless and uncommitted are in confusion.

These two value systems, 'this world', and 'God's will', are incompatible

**Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."***