

Study of Hebrews #52
“Excursus: Offering Up Our Own Lives”
Text: Romans 12:1

I. Introduction and review

1. Biblical faith is founded on the truth of resurrection power.
2. Biblical faith is focused on the hope of future grace.
3. Obedience to God is motivated by the promises of God.
4. Just as Abraham offered up Isaac, we must offer up our own lives.

II. Corporately pondering Romans 12:1

1. “Therefore... “
2. “I appeal to you... brothers...”
3. “... by the mercies of God...”
4. “... to present...”
5. “... your bodies...”
6. “... as a ... sacrifice...”
 - A living sacrifice
 - A holy sacrifice
 - An acceptable sacrifice

IV. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. A. W. Tozer:

Plain horse sense ought to tell us that anything that makes no change in the man who professes it makes no difference to God either, and it is an easily observable fact that for countless numbers of persons the change from no-faith to faith makes no actual difference in the life.

2. Martin Luther:

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" [Matthew 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

3. John Piper:

*The offering of our bodies is not the offering of our bodily looks but our bodily behavior. In the Bible the body is not significant because of the way it **looks**, but because of the way it **acts**. The body is given to us to make visible the beauty of Christ. God wants visible, lived-out, bodily evidence that our lives are built on His mercy.*

4. Handley Moule:

Holiness is the aim and issue of the entire gospel. It is indeed an evidence of life, infinitely weighty in the enquiry whether a man knows God indeed and is on the way to His heaven. But it is much more; it is the expression of [the Christian] life.

5. J. C. Ryle:

We must be holy, because this is the one grand end and purpose for which Christ came into the world ... Jesus is a complete Savior. He does not merely take away the guilt of a believer's sin, He does more – He breaks its power.

6. Kevin DeYoung:

The fact of the matter is, if you read through the instructions to the New Testament churches, you will find few explicit commands that tell us to take care of the needy in our communities ... but there are dozens and dozens of verses that enjoin us, in one way or another, to be holy as God is holy.

7. Charles Swindoll:

[In Romans 6], the apostle stated that believers presenting their bodies to sin didn't make logical sense. Why would freed slaves continue to serve their old master? Presenting our bodies to serve the interests of our new Master, on the other hand, is completely logical – very much in keeping with good sense.

Alternate translations of Romans 12:1

- **LEB** - *Therefore I exhort you, brothers, through the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.*
- **HCSB** - *Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.*
- **NASB** - *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*
- **NET** - *Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service.*