

Sacrifice and Service  
(Romans 12:1)

Introduction:

1. In Romans 12:1, the apostle Paul used 2 key words that we are concentrating on today: "sacrifice" and "service."
2. Veterans certainly understand the importance of sacrifice and service.
3. Sacrifice and service also play important roles in the lives of Christians [soldiers in God's army].
4. In our lesson we are examining:
  - a. 3 verses that relate to sacrifice
  - b. 3 verses that relate to service
  - c. a passage that teaches us how to be armed for sacrifice and service.

Discussion:

- I. 3 VERSES THAT RELATE TO SACRIFICE
  - A. Romans 12:1
    1. This verse makes an appeal for Christians to present our bodies [the entire being -- mind, body, and soul] a living sacrifice.
    2. This appeal is based on God's mercies.
    3. The type of sacrifice is one that is holy and pleasing to God.
  - B. Hebrews 13:15
    1. This verse makes an appeal for Christians to offer the sacrifice of praise to God [we are to "continually" express our gratitude to God].
    2. Keep in mind that this letter was written to encourage Christians to remain faithful [thanksgiving promotes faithfulness].
    3. A parallel passage is 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
  - C. 1 Peter 2:5
    1. This verse makes an appeal for Christians to offer up spiritual sacrifices that please God.
    2. We are a holy priesthood and part of God's spiritual house.
- II. 3 VERSES THAT RELATE TO SERVICE
  - A. Luke 16:13
    1. A Christian's service must not be divided.
    2. A servant cannot serve 2 masters [2 masters cannot be loved equally].
    3. The Lord requires loyalty from His servants.
  - B. Luke 22:26
    1. A Christian's service is a measure of his greatness.
    2. The Lord made this statement because of the situation in vs.24.
    3. A serious warning is given in Galatians 5:15.
  - C. Galatians 5:13
    1. A Christian's service is to be motivated by "love."
    2. The necessity of love is also emphasized in 1 Corinthians 13:3.
  - D. After looking at 3 verses that relate to sacrifice and 3 verses that relate to service, let us turn our attention to . . .
- III. A PASSAGE THAT TEACHES US HOW TO BE ARMED FOR SACRIFICE AND SERVICE [Ephesians 6:10-18]
  - A. (vs.10-13) To be prepared for sacrifice and service, we must "*put on the whole armor of God.*"
  - B. (vs.14-17) The various items of armor are listed.
  - C. (vs.18) We are to always pray [also emphasized in 1 Thessalonians 5:17].

Conclusion:

1. Christian soldiers look forward to a great victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).
2. Looking forward to this victory should motivate us to serve the Lord faithfully (1 Corinthians 15:58).