

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Romans 12:1

Today we begin a **series on worship** – what it is, why we should engage in it and desire to do so, what should motivate us, what should go into our worship, etc. We start with Romans 12:1 because there the Apostle makes clear that our response to the glorious grace of God in salvation (Romans 1-11) should be one of worship.

1. Reasonable Service of Worship

The words we read in **Romans 12:1**:

“service (of worship)”

Worship is our work – a work of service to our God.

“reasonable” (AV) or *“spiritual”* (nearly all modern translations)

The Greek word means “reasonable, rational” in most uses, but 1 Peter 2:2 suggests something like “spiritual.”

Paul’s sense: the worship described in 12:1 is the rational, or reasonable response of redeemed sinners to the God who has saved them.

2. Response to God’s great gift of salvation in Christ

“I entreat you by the mercies of God ...”

What mercies? All that has been set forth in chaps 1-11:

- our fallen & lost condition under sin & death & judgment,
- the atoning work of Christ the Son of God
- justification from God by faith in Christ
- the gift and work of the Holy Spirit who gives us life in Christ and enables us to become like Him
- the worldwide plan of God’s salvation – uniting Jews who believe with Gentiles in all the world

Paul’s exuberant hymn in response: **11:33-36**

3. Offer Yourself as living thank offerings

“present your bodies as living and holy sacrifice”

- Old Testament language of sacrifice –

NOT sacrifices for sin: Christ is our sacrifice for sin (& all we need)

HIS is the sacrifice that makes ours acceptable (1 Pet.2:5)

BUT *thank offerings*

NOT slain animals as thanks to God,

BUT our living bodies = our *whole selves* offered to God.

a. In all of life – everything you do

Think of all you do as a service of thanksgiving to God.

That should profoundly affect what you do and how!

b. In the corporate worship of Christ’s gathered church

The offerings of the spiritual priesthood in public worship.

1 Peter 2:4,5, Hebrews 13:15 & 10:25