

WHAT GOD WANTS FROM YOU

(Romans 12:1)

...A number of years ago, the US army used a recruitment slogan, "Uncle Sam Wants YOU." I am sure it was effective in drawing many into military service.

...When we ask the question, "What does God want from you." The answer is the same. God wants YOU...all of you!!

...Paul has labored in the first half of his letter to the Romans to teach the Gospel. It is the longest Gospel given in the Bible. After this, Paul begins to apply the result of the Gospel in the lives of believers. To start, he calls us as Christians, those of us who possess this Gospel, to offer our bodies, our all to the Lord. God wants YOU!

FOUR PARTS OF PAUL'S CALL URGING US TO GIVE ALL OF OUR LIVES TO GOD. For, God made us, saved us, and is sanctifying us for His glory.

- I. The Request: Give Your Life To The Lord.** "offer your bodies as living sacrifices"
- A. Paul now begins to apply the truths he has been teaching in this letter. He is speaking to those who have received Christ Jesus as Lord. "I urge you..." These were the Christians in Rome...
 - B. We are to be "living sacrifices." This sounds like a contradiction, but not so.
 - 1. The Old Testament sacrifices had animals being brought to the priest:
...Sins were confessed...symbolically transferred to the animal.
...Thus, a substitution occurred, and the animal was put to death by the priest.
 - 2. Jesus, the "Lamb of God," gave His life as the sacrifice for sins.
...He died for us, to provide salvation. We are called to live for Him.
 - C. This offering means that we are to continually give our whole life to the One who saved us. We are to live as though we are dead to our own desires, dreams, and ambitions. (Gal 2:20)
...Jesus called us to this in His words about discipleship..."must deny himself and..." (Luke 9:23f)
- II. The Reasoning: Do This Because Of What God Has Done For You.** "God's mercy"
- A. Paul tells us why...because has been merciful to us.
 - 1. In other words, Paul sums up chapters 1-11, which present God's great program of mercy and compassion for lost sinners that really deserve Hell.
...Romans 1-3...he tells how all people everywhere are born lost under sin.
...Romans 4-8...he unfolds God's great plan of MERCY for us.
 - 2. The Lord made the only way for salvation and did everything that needed to be done to provide it for us. It is a finished work. God has done it all. (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - B. So, Paul tells us in view of this, it is only reasonable for us who have received the forgiveness-of sins in Christ, to give all that we are to Him. (1 Corinth 6:19-20)
- III. The Response: We Are Specifically Told How To Make This Offering.**
- A. Our offering is to be "LIVING." We are to give all of our life to the Lord. (Romans 6:13)
 - 1. Our minds. This is a very important. Victory begins here. G.I.G.O.
 - 2. Our eyes and ears. Balance what you read/watch...be careful.
 - 3. Our tongue. Use it to edify. Use it to witness. To pray. Never to slander, to curse.
 - 4. Our hands and feet. Work with your hands to be able to support yourself and to give.
...don't let your feet take you to places where you should not be, and there are many...
 - B. Our offering is to be "Holy." This is the aim and end of the Gospel. "to be without spot or..."
 - 1. Holiness is the expression of true life within you. Paul uses this word twice in vv 1-2.
 - 2. You are different from the world. You are being "set-apart." God's city...in the world.
...Conversion to Christ does make us different.
- IV. The Results: As We Do This, The Outcome Is Rather Shocking.**
- A. God is "pleased" when you give your whole life to Him.
...When Jesus was baptized, God the Father said from heaven, "this is my beloved Son, of whom I am well pleased." We all know that the Father was pleased with the Lord.
 - B. Here, the same word is used. It is hard to imagine that anything we might do would evoke such a response from the Lord. But it is true. Imagine, God is pleased with us. Wow!

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: