Daily Devotion #172

**Your Reasonable Service**

**Romans 12:1 (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*.”

I have a friend who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who grew up in the middle east. Not too many years ago, he became an American citizen. That was a great joy to him in many ways, but the highlight of his new citizenship was to be able to vote in the presidential election. He shared with me how excited he was to go and vote because he said in the middle east that is not possible. In his home country the government and the people just run over and don’t care about the people. It was so exciting listening to him and hearing his excitement as a person who now has the freedom to live as an American in a free nation. For him, voting was an act of service that he very much wanted to do because of the privilege he feels for being given the gift of living in America. So, as much as voting is an inherent right for all citizens of this country, for him it was a the only reasonable thing to do now that he has that privilege.

As I listened to him share his heartfelt excitement for his newest privilege, I couldn’t help but think about the great privilege you and I have as believers in the Lord Jesus to be a part of His family. It is a great privilege because He didn’t have to choose us or open our eyes or give us any reason to surrender our lives to Him. But He did. By His own volition and desire, He made us see so that we can have a saving relationship with Him and enjoy His eternal Kingdom forever.

As the Apostle Paul is explaining to the church in Rome about the present state of Israel, he helps them to see that God has not abandoned His chosen people but has a great plan to redeem all those of Israel who turn to Christ. (Romans 11) And as a part of his argument, he helps the church to see that because Israel is partially hardened in their acceptance of who Jesus is as their Messiah, if we are not careful, we too, will be hardened by the Lord. Paul is wanting the church to understand the great act of mercy the Lord has given to all who are non-Jews but have had their eyes opened to who He is.

Because of that, Paul urges all believers to remember the great work of God and therefore to live our lives in service to Him. In fact, the King James translation of Romans 12:1 says it is our reasonable service. I love the way the King James translates that. The newer translations help to clarify Paul’s statement, that our service to the Lord is all about worship, but the same meaning is true, it is a reasonable service, simply because of what God has done for us.

As I am reminded by my friend of our great heritage and privilege as Americans, I am also overwhelmed with the joy of knowing that my name and all names of those who have surrendered to Christ are written down in heaven. So, it is reasonable to serve God with a full heart of obedience. It is reasonable to worship God with a full heart of adoration. To think of all God did to rescue us is mind boggling. To experience what our Lord when through for our sakes, just so we would be a part of His family, is an overwhelming truth.

Beloved, could we not simply live our lives as holy vessels before our God just because He rescued us? Could we not love one another the way He has called us to love each other simply because of His willingness to sacrifice Himself for us? The answer is pretty obvious.

Won’t you make it your plan to live for God each day, in spite of all that is going on around you? This shouldn’t take a lot of thought. It should naturally flow out of us. Why? Because it is only reasonable to do so.