

Comments About Romans 12:1

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This week, I want to begin a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul's writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts. Whereas, the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

This article will discuss Romans 12:1.

Clues in the Old Testament

There is no doubt that the Old Testament had many sections of Scripture describing the sacrificial system established for the people of God at that time.

However, the Old Testament also gave Bible students clues about how God truly viewed the sacrificial system. Notice a few of the scriptures.

1 Samuel 15:22—"Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

Psalms 51:16-17—"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise."

Hosea 6:6—"For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Micah 6:6-8—"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

■ Psalm 40:6

■ Proverbs 15:8

- Proverbs 21:3
- Isaiah 1:11-17
- Isaiah 66:1-2

Spiritual sacrifices

Paul wrote about a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Notice some other verses.

Mark 12:33—"And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Ephesians 5:2—"And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Matthew 9:10-13—"Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, 'Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard that, He said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.' "

Matthew 12:7—"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

Hebrews 13:15-16—"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."