

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 12:1-8

Lesson 14

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's lesson or lecture, cite at least one thing that excites you about God's plans.

2. Some people are afraid to give everything over to Jesus. No doubt, their reservations arise because they do not understand how good God is, how great His plans are, and how much they owe to Him. When we realize the goodness of God, the greatness of His plans, and all He has done for us, our *reasonable* response is to submit our lives entirely to Him. Paul, having written on these subjects, beseeched his audience to do the *reasonable* thing—present their bodies as living sacrifices to God. Romans 12 describes the attributes of a life completely yielded to God. Use the sections below to highlight the behavior of those whose lives are presented to God as living sacrifices:
 - a. Romans 12:1

 - b. Romans 12:2

 - c. Romans 12:3-5

 - d. Romans 12:6-8

3. Take a moment to make the verse below your prayer.

*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.*

Romans 12:1

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 12:1

1. Throughout the epistle of Romans, Paul has been building a case for all the great things the believer has through faith in Jesus. What was Paul's passionate appeal to believers? Romans 12:1a
2. Paul entreated the believers *by the mercies of God*. Choose and record a few of God's mercies from the list below:
 - a. Romans 5:1-5
 - b. Romans 5:8-9
 - c. Romans 5:10-11
 - d. Romans 8:1
 - e. Romans 8:2-3
 - f. Romans 8:15-17
 - g. Romans 8:26-27
 - h. Romans 8:28
 - i. Romans 8:30
 - j. Romans 8:31
 - k. Romans 8:32
 - l. Romans 8:33-34
 - m. Romans 8:37
 - n. Romans 8:38-39
3. According to Romans 12:1b, we as believers are challenged to *present* our *bodies* to God. Use the following Scriptures to comment on what this means:
 - a. Romans 6:13, 16, 19
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
4. Use the following Scriptures to comment on the three ways our *bodies* (Romans 12:1c) are presented to God:
 - a. *Living sacrifice* - Galatians 2:20
 - b. *Holy* - Ephesians 1:4
 - c. *Acceptable* - Ephesians 1:6
5. Considering Romans 12:1d, why is it *reasonable* for us to *present* ourselves to God?
6. Share a way you would encourage someone to *present* themselves to God.

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 12:2

1. Paul issued a command to believers in Romans 12:2a. What are believers *not* to do?
 - a. J.B. Phillips translated this, *Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold*. Why is this an important principle for every believer?
 - b. What safeguards do you need to prevent this from happening?
2. By contrast, what are believers to *be*? Romans 12:2b
 - a. Why do you think the *mind* is the key to our transformation?
 - b. The Greek word for *transformed* (*metamorphoó*) is also used in 2 Corinthians 3:18. What does it say?
 - (1) Share an area in which you desire to be transformed into the image of Christ.
3. After *being transformed*, what will the believer be able to *prove*? Romans 12:2c
 - a. Use the following descriptions to comment on the purposes of the *will of God* for you:
 - (1) *Good* (profitable, for our benefit)
 - (2) *Acceptable* (well-pleasing, agreeable)
 - (3) *Perfect* (complete, finished)
 - (a) How does this underscore the importance of following God's will?
4. Share a way you have:
 - a. Been *transformed by the renewing of your mind*
 - b. Proved the *good and acceptable and perfect will of God*

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 12:3–5

1. Read Romans 12:3 (NLT) and answer the questions that follow. *Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.*
 - a. Why was Paul qualified to give this *warning*?
 - b. What *warning* did Paul give the believers?
 - (1) Why is this a necessary *warning*?
 - c. How are we to *be honest* with ourselves?
 - d. What speaks to you most from Paul's exhortation?
2. Paul reminded the believers that they are part of the *body* of Christ. Use Romans 12:4–5 to note and comment on:
 - a. The unity in the *body*
 - b. The diversity of *gifts*
 - (1) Paul expounded on this theme in his letter to the Corinthians. Use the following verses from 1 Corinthians 12 to further describe:
 - (a) The unity in the *body* (verses 4–7, 12, 20, 26)
 - (b) The diversity of *gifts* (verses 11, 14–19, 27)
3. What blessings have you received by being part of the body of Christ?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 12:6-8

1. Paul next mentioned the *gifts* that we as believers are given by God. Identify the source by which these *differing* gifts are given. Romans 12:6a

- a. Why is this important to remember concerning our *gifts*?

2. Read Romans 12:6b-8 and complete the following chart to describe each *gift*:

GIFT	HOW TO USE IT	GIVE EXAMPLES
Verse 6b		
Verse 7a		
Verse 7b		
Verse 8a		
Verse 8b		
Verse 8c		
Verse 8d		

3. Which of these *gifts* do you desire most?

- a. Read Ephesians 4:12-16 and record the purpose for these *gifts*.

4. Share a way God has used someone's gift to minister to you.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use Romans 12:1–8 to note and comment on the following aspects of the believer's life:
 - a. Presentation (Romans 12:1)
 - b. Transformation (Romans 12:2)
 - c. Personal evaluation (Romans 12:3)
 - d. Gift manifestation (Romans 12:4–8)
2. Why do you desire to present your body as a *living sacrifice* to God?

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
Romans 12:2