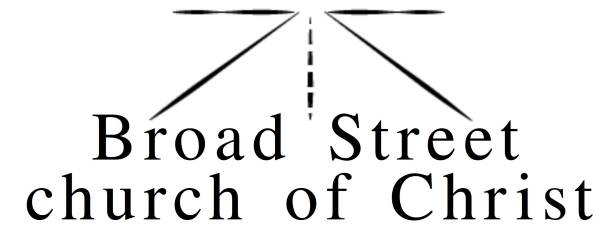


Broad Street Church of Christ
 433 E. Broad St.
 Statesville, NC 28677 | 704.873.4836
 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



February 19, 2017

An Appeal to Sacrifice

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:1-2

What first jumps out at me is the “appeal.” Paul (and therefore God, since Paul was writing under inspiration – 1 Cor. 14:37) is appealing to us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of our minds. God doesn’t force us to do anything (Josh. 24:15). Rather, he appeals to us. What love! What consideration!

What next gets me thinking is that Paul is making this appeal to us “by the mercies of God.” That tells me that not only are we forgiven by the mercy of God, but even our obedience of God, our spiritual growth and progress, our walk with him, only happens due to his mercy. That makes sense, when you stop and think about it. We all have sinned, after all (1 John 1:8), and we deserve death for our sins (Rom. 6:23)...not the opportunity to serve and glorify the One whom we have wronged. Again, what love! What consideration!

What is the appeal? To present our “bodies” as “a living sacrifice.” In other words, All To Jesus I Surrender. None of Self and All of Thee. Christianity is not just a weekend activity or an extra-curricular activity. Our Christianity is not our alter-ego, and it does not revolve around our lives. No, our lives revolve around our Christianity. The kingdom and the righteousness of God come first, above everyone and everything else (Matt. 6:33; 22:35). Christian, is your life like that? Do you want to be “holy and acceptable to God”? Guess what you have to do?

What is our “spiritual worship”? He was just talking about dedicating our entire lives to God. Does that mean all of our lives consists of worship to God? No, because the Greek word translated “worship” here could also be translated “service.” (Plus, consider this. Are we worshipping God while we’re sinning? While we’re sleeping? While we’re eating? There’s no biblical example of anyone doing that,

What must I do to be saved?
 Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Scripture Reading:	Shawn Sharpe
Song Leader:	Chris Smith
Opening Prayer (A.M.):	Steve Short
Closing Prayer (A.M.):	Roger Lippard
Opening Prayer (P.M.):	Steven Mozer
Closing Prayer (P.M.):	John Anderson
Nursery Attendant:	TBA

Building Lockup:	Guy Byrd
Announcements:	Guy Byrd
Door Greeters:	Guy and Carol Byrd
Count Contribution:	Harry Frye, John Anderson
Prepare Lord's Table:	Elaine Johnson
Lord's Supper (A.M.):	Steven Mozer, Bradley Speer, Tommy Smith, Joshua Speer
Lord's Supper (P.M.):	Johnny Smith

Worship Times	
Sunday Bible Study	10:00 A.M.
Sunday A.M. Worship	10:55 A.M.
Sunday P.M. Worship	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Elders	
John Anderson	704.592.2266
Steve Short	704.872.5440
Tommy Smith	704.872.7966
Bradley Speer	704.876.6986
Preacher	
Dave Wood	704.380.4437

and the more examples we think of the more absurd the notion becomes. Worship in spirit and truth [John 4:24] consists of purposeful actions which he has commanded us to do in praise and honor to him [Col. 3:16; 4:2; Acts 2:42]). So here's what God's really telling us. Do you want to really be "spiritual"? Do you really want to serve God? Dedicate your entire life to obeying his revealed will in the Word of God. That's true spiritual service.

In order to do that, we can't be "conformed to the world." Ask yourselves this, Christians. How different from the world are you, really? God's not talking about not liking tacos because your non-Christian neighbor likes tacos. God's talking about not watching porn like the majority of this country does. God's talking about not cussing or gossiping like the majority of the people around us do. God's talking about dressing modestly at all times when you're in public...unlike most people in our society. God's talking about your Facebook "About" page having "Christian" under the "Religion" section...and not having dirty jokes, foul language, and immodest pictures in the "Status" section...get the picture? Would the people you work with, go to school with, and hang out with be surprised to see you with a Bible in your hand, or if they got an invite to come to church with you, or to see you with bowed head in prayer? If so...why is that?

In order for us to not be conformed to the world, we have to "be transformed." How? "By the renewing of our mind." We have to change the way we think. We have to change our worldview, our priorities. How do we do that? Read Psalm 1. Want to be like the man described in verses 1 and 3? Want to not be like the people described in verses 4 and 5? You have to be like the man described in verse 2...every single day. Do that...with an open and honest heart (Luke 8:15)...and you'd be surprised at how quickly the transformation starts to occur. Don't, and you'll just keep on being a Christian-In-Name-Only...and you won't like what happens to you on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 7:21-27; Heb. 10:26-31).

(Here's a test. If you're truly interested in transforming your mind and are unfamiliar with Psalm 1 and the other scriptures I've cited thus far, you will have already turned to them in your Bible or looked them up on the Internet by now. If you just nodded your head and moved on, you have a ways to go before you'll start to look different from the rest of the world. This is real, people. It's not going to happen to you by accident, and not without dedication and hard work. Just sayin'...)

If you work very hard at transforming your mind (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5-11), guess what you're doing? You're "discerning what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." You won't have to wonder about where God stands on things, or what would Jesus do. You'll know, because you are storing up God's will in your heart in order to avoid sin (Ps. 119:11; Heb. 5:12-14). Not only that, but you will be finding out what Proverbs brings out time and time again...that doing things God's way really is the good way, the acceptable way, the perfect way.

This is what Christianity is all about, folks... By: Jon Mitchell

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson, Bill Proctor and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Will Winchester, Betty Smith and Frank Shepherd.

- Donna Baysinger, Bobby Lankford's niece, passed away last week our condolences are extended to the family of Donna Baysinger.

- Cassandra Bills will have surgery this Wednesday, to mend two broken bones in her leg.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 19: Adam Evans will be our guest speaker this evening!

Feb. 26: Fourth Sunday evening singing. Don't forget about our monthly fellowship meal after evening services. Let us always prefer one another!

Mar. 11: Carolina Men's Fellowship! Meeting times are from 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Sermons:

A.M. - We Have - Heb. 4:14-16;

P.M. - Adam Evans