

Study of Romans 12
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Romans 12:1-21

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, that **YOU** present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Elohim, which is your reasonable service.*

There is much said in this verse. First of all what does it mean to present our bodies as a living sacrifice? Secondly what does it mean to be a **living sacrifice**, weren't all sacrifices killed before they were offered as sacrifices? Thirdly, what does it mean to be **holy**? Fourthly what is acceptable to Elohim? And fifthly what is our reasonable service? Five questions to be answered.

To begin with, in Scripture we are told that our bodies are the temple of Elohim, because YHVH created us with the sole purpose and desire to have an intimate relationship with each and everyone of us; *1Corinthians 3:16 Know you **NOT** that **YOU ARE THE TEMPLE of Elohim**, and that the Spirit of Elohim **DWELLS IN YOU**?* Therefore when we present our bodies to YHVH, we are presenting our personal **TEMPLE** to YHVH for inspection. Secondly our Elohim **IS** the Elohim of the **LIVING**, and since there **IS** no standing temple and no standing altar today, He wants us to bring our bodies as Living Sacrifices. We are told in Scripture that obedience **IS** better than sacrifice. *1Samuel 15:32 And Samuel said, Has YHVH as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in **OBEYING** the voice of YHVH? Behold, **TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**, and to hearken (shemah) better than the fat of rams.*

Why **IS** obedience better than sacrifice? It is because our Elohim **IS** after our hearts; He wants us to willingly surrender our hearts in loving surrendered obedience to Him, so that He can have an intimate relationship with each and every one of us, which is what He has wanted from the very beginning.

Thirdly we are commanded in Scripture to be Holy as YHVH **IS** Holy, *Leviticus 11:44 For I am YHVH your Elohim: you **SHALL** therefore sanctify yourselves, and you **SHALL be holy; for I am holy**: neither shall you **DEFILE** yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creeps upon the earth;* and the only way to know what it means **TO BE HOLY as YHVH is Holy, IS** through the Word of Elohim, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life.

Fourthly we have the question, what is acceptable to Elohim. That is an easy question to answer, because Scripture itself gives us the answer. *Proverbs 21:3 To do justice and judgement **IS MORE ACCEPTABLE** to YHVH than sacrifice.* Again, the only way we can know what **IS ACCEPTABLE TO YHVH IS BY** reading and studying His Word.

And the fifth question posed is, what **IS** our reasonable service? To explain that we have to first believe and understand that YHVH **IS** indeed our Creator, Redeemer, Saviour, Protector and Provider. When we put His role in our lives in that context, we can see that our reasonable service **IS** whatever He calls or Commands us to do. And what **IS** it that He Commands us to do? *Malachi 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does YHVH require of you, **BUT to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your Elohim**?* In other words, **IF** you love Me keep, obey My commandments.

*Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and **KEEP ALL MY COMMANDMENTS**, My Torah always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

*Deuteronomy 10:12 And **NOW**, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require of you, **BUT TO FEAR YHVH your Elohim, to walk in ALL HIS WAYS, and TO LOVE HIM, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with ALL YOUR heart and with ALL YOUR SOUL,***

When someone does something that **GIVES US LIFE**, (creation) and brings blessings and joy into our lives, (Torah) and redeems or saves us from sure death, **IT IS** reasonable for Him to expect that we **WILL FOLLOW** and **LISTEN** (shemah) to what He tells us to do, so that we **DO NOT** end up in the same predicament, where He found us in the first place.

In conclusion this verse tells us that YHVH **IS** sovereign, and that we are to surrender our hearts, mind, souls and strength to Him in loving surrendered obedience, and learn to follow His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, which Scripture tells us, is **OUR REASONABLE SERVICE**, since He **IS** our Creator, Redeemer, Saviour, Provider and Protector. Verse 2 And be **NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD**: **BUT be you TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that GOOD, and ACCEPTABLE, and PERFECT, will of Elohim.**

What does it mean to **RENEW** your mind? In most cases it means that we need a major paradigm shift; where our whole way of thinking has to be revamped, so that the belief system we once lived by **IS** cast aside in favour of YHVH's ancient paths, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life. What **IS IT** that we once believed according to Paul? We once believed the ways of this world, and Paul admonishes us, **NOT TO BE CONFORMED TO THOSE WAYS**, but instead we need **TO SHED ALL OF THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD. WHY ARE WE NOT TO BE CONFORMED** to the ways of this world? Scripture tells us that this world **IS** under the **INFLUENCE** or the power of *the prince of the air*, satan, and he has come to steal, kill and destroy, therefore, **IF** we do indeed **CONFORM** to the ways of this world, and its teaching, **IT MEANS THAT WE ARE CONFORMING TO THE WAYS OF** satan and **WE BECOME MINISTERS OF** satan and his destructive ways.

Therefore Scripture tells us that we, **THE BELIEVERS** in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are to be **TRANSFORMED** by the renewing of our minds. **WHY** our minds, why not transform our hearts? We are to transform our minds because the battle for our hearts begins in our minds. The mind **IS** the daily battle field where we either **CHOOSE TO OBEY** what Elohim has put on our hearts, or choose to disobey Him and rely on our own understanding, our own way. *Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I DO NOT WANT TO DO, I CONSENT UNTO THE TORAH (Law) that it is GOOD. 17 Now then IT IS NO MORE I THAT DO IT, BUT SIN that dwells in me. 18 For I KNOW that in me (that is, in my flesh,) DWELLS NO GOOD THING: for to will IS INDEED present with me; BUT HOW TO PERFORM THAT WHICH IS GOOD (TORAH), I FIND NOT. 19 For the good (the Torah) that I want to obey and DO, I DO NOT DO IT: BUT the evil which I do not want to do, THAT I DO. 20 Now IF I do that which I do NOT want to DO, IT IS no more I that does it, but SIN (transgression of the Torah, Torahlessness, 1John 3:4) that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, when I want to KEEP and DO the Torah, EVIL, TORAHLESSNESS IS PRESENT WITH ME.*

Next we are told that the *will of YHVH IS, good, acceptable and perfect*, and that we are to prove that for ourselves.

Let us begin with the word *good*.

The Hebrew word translated into our English word *good*, is the word *Tov*, and its use in the Hebrew Scriptures according to Jeff Benner in the context of *Genesis 1* means *functioning*.

*Genesis 1:31 And Elohim saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was **VERY GOOD, (functioning in the manner that YHVH created it to function)**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

*Romans 7:12 Wherefore the Torah (Law) **IS HOLY, AND THE COMMANDMENT HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD, (functioning in the manner that he created it to function, when obeyed)**.*

*1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the Torah (Law) **IS GOOD, (we know that the Torah is functioning in the manner that YHVH created it to function)**, **IF A MAN USES IT LAWFULLY.***

The next word is the word *acceptable*:

*Romans 14:18 For he that in these things **SERVES MESSIAH IS ACCEPTABLE** to Elohim, and approved of men.*

*Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit **IS IN ALL GOODNESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRUTH, Torah**); 10 Proving what **IS ACCEPTABLE** unto YHVH.*

Here we see that what **IS ACCEPTABLE** to Elohim **IS GOODNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRUTH** which are all synonyms for Torah.

The next word is the word *perfect*:

*Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, His **WORK IS PERFECT**: for **ALL** His ways are judgement: an Elohim of **TRUTH** and without iniquity, sin (Torah obedient, since Sin **IS** transgression of the Torah) **JUST and RIGHT IS HE.***

*2 Samuel 22:31 As for Elohim, **His way IS PERFECT**; the **WORD** of YHVH **IS** tried: He is a buckler to all them that **TRUST** in Him.*

*Psalms 19:7 The Law, the Torah of YHVH **IS PERFECT**, converting the soul:*

The word **PERFECT** means to be mature and or complete, needing nothing else.

If we put all of these words together we see that the Word of Elohim **FUNCTIONS** in the manner and for the purposes that He, YHVH **INTENDED IT TO BE**, we also see that His Word fulfills or **CONFIRMS** His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, which are **WAYS OF GOODNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH**, and when we do indeed decide to **FOLLOW and OBEY** the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, with loving, surrendered, contrite, obedient hearts, **IT WILL** make us **WHOLE and COMPLETE**, and the peace of YHVH that passes **ALL** understanding **WILL REST UPON AND WITHIN US.**

*Verse 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **NOT** to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; **BUT** to think soberly, according as Elohim has dealt to every man the **MEASURE OF BELIEF** (faith).*

We are **ALL** created the same in the eyes of YHVH, and everyone **IS** given the **SAME** measure of belief (faith), **BUT NOT EVERYONE CULTIVATES** that belief (faith) in the same way **TO MAKE IT GROW. IT IS UP TO US**, according to Scripture to **WORK OUT OUR OWN SALVATION**, (*Philippians 2:12*) and when we truly decide **TO DO EXACTLY THAT**, with a surrendered obedient

heart, **THEN** our loving, caring, compassionate, merciful, forgiving Father **FILLS US** with His Holy Spirit, who **THEN IS TASKED with CAUSING** every willing Heart to walk out YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His inerrant and everlasting Word, His Directives for everlasting Life, **HIS TORAH**.

Next we have the metaphor of comparing the Body of Messiah to the human body. *4 For as we have many members in one body, and ALL members have not the same office:*

While there are many parts to the human body, there **IS** but **ONE BODY**, and **IT IS** the same with the body of Messiah, **ALL** believers are part of the same body, and since we are **ALL** part of the same body, then, when one part of the body **IS** suffering, the whole body feels the pain and suffers along with it, whether we recognize **IT OR NOT**. According to Paul, **ALL** the parts of the body, each and everyone one of them, **IS AS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY AS THE OTHER**, even though some take a more prominent role. The body parts of the human skeletal system are compared to the individual gifts that YHVH has given each and every one of us. Therefore Paul tells us that the parts or gifts of the body of Messiah are:

Prophecy: *let us prophesy according to the proportion of our belief (faith)*

Ministry: *let us wait on our ministering, until YHVH clearly tells us what to do and where to do it.*

Teaching: *let us insure that we teach the Word of our heavenly Father, His Torah, and not man's doctrine.*

Exhorting: *do it fervently with conviction and determination*

Giving: *let us do it with cheerful hearts and with simplicity*

Ruling over others: *let us do it with diligence and love and by the Word of YHVH, His Torah*

Mercy: *showing mercy with cheerful hearts, because that **IS** what our Father wants and expects from us*

Love: *let our love be without dissimulation, loving **ALL** of Elohim's creation.*

Whether we have been blessed with one or all of the gifts mentioned above, we are admonished to:

Abhor *that which is evil (Torahlessness)*

Cleave to that which is GOOD *(YHVH's inerrant and everlasting Word, His Torah of Life)*

Be **kind and affectionate** *one to another with brotherly love*

Honour each other, *preferring one another*

Be **NOT slothful** *in business (not lazy)*

Be **fervent in spirit**; **servicing** *YHVH with all your heart*

Rejoice always having **hope** *in your heart*

Be **patient** *in tribulation (for **IT IS** Elohim that chastens, and He chastens those He loves)*

Continue in the **task or position** *that YHVH has placed you in, praying always (in other words, **DO** what Elohim wants, which may **NOT** be what you want, Do as Messiah did, **NOT MY WILL***

FATHER, BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE FATHER)

Distribute *to the needs and necessities of saints (be a cheerful giver)*

Be **hospitable** *to all people (be kind and loving to all)*

Bless *them who persecute you: bless, and don't curse (for cursing **IS** YHVH's purview)*

Rejoice *with sincerity with them that do rejoice*

Weep with empathy *with them that weep*

Be of **the same mind**, *one toward another (always remember that as believers, we **HAVE** the mind of Messiah).*

Mind NOT high things or people, *but condescend to men of low estate.*

Be **not wise in your own conceits**

Recompense to NO man evil for evil

*In all things that you do, **do them HONESTLY in the sight of all men***

*If **IT IS** possible, as much as lies in you, **live peaceably with all men?***

There are twenty instructions mentioned above that we **ARE** commanded to develop as attitudes and attributes that will build the character that YHVH wants to see in **ALL** men. Twenty in Scripture speaks of redemption, (*Exodus 30:12-14*), therefore I believe that YHVH is telling us, **THAT IF** we willingly and lovingly agree to obey Him and develop these attitudes and attributes in our lives, **NOT** only will we be redeemed and on the road to eternal salvation, **BUT we will LEAD many others to the wonderful redemption and eternal salvation available from our heavenly Father.**

Our heavenly Father loves each and every one of His created beings with an infinite unending love and He does **NOT** want even **ONE** of us **TO PERISH**, and furthermore, He wants us **ALL** to get along with each other, and that **IS WHY** He admonishes us **TO DO ALL** that is within our power to get along with each other, in the same manner that your parents told you, when you were young, to get along with your brother or sister, or cousins when they came to visit.

Next we see our heavenly Father's love for all of His children and the love that He wants us all to have for each other, when He says through Paul, *avenge NOT yourselves, BUT rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I will repay, says YHVH.*

Our heavenly Father knows how destructive **revenge** can be, and He admonishes us **NOT** to take **revenge**, because **revenge** will harden our hearts, and there **IS** no place in a **HARD HEART** to receive YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, because His Torah **IS** the expression of His Love for us. *Matthew 5:22-24 But I say unto you, That whosoever IS angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: BUT whosoever shall say, YOU FOOL, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore IF you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you; Leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way; FIRST BE RECONCILED to your brother, and THEN come and offer your gift.*

The word **fool** is the Greek word *Moros*, Strong's number 3474, from Strong's number 3466 *mystérion*, having the meaning of **shut up you fool no one wants your opinion**, it is imposing silence upon a brother because of religious doctrine so that he is not allowed to give his opinion.

Since silencing people and calling them names is despised by our Elohim, we should therefore listen to our heavenly Father when He admonishes us to love our enemy, and furthermore He tells us in His marvellous Word, *IF your enemy is hungry, feed him; IF he is thirsty, give him something to drink: FOR IN SO DOING YOU SHALL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD.* In other words, YHVH is telling us that **IF** we treat our enemy with love, something that our enemy would **NEVER** expect, **IT WILL** be very confusing to him and much more difficult for him to respond in anger. In most cases, **IT** will eventually soften even the hardest heart, **BUT** unfortunately, **NOT** in all cases. There are some whose hearts have gone beyond what can be reached by the love of man, and can only be changed by divine intervention.

Finally YHVH gives advice that we should all adhere to, *verse 21 Be not overcome of evil, but OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD (TORAH).* The tendency of all human beings **IS** to avenge ourselves when someone has offended us; **BUT** our heavenly Father knows how destructive **revenge IS** to the human spirit, and therefore He commands us to **NOT** be overcome by evil.

The statement to ***NOT*** be overcome by evil ***IS*** a very profound statement. Evil ***IS*** like a snowball, it will grow exponentially ***IF*** allowed to follow ***ITS*** natural downhill course and it will indeed ***OVERCOME YOU***, and lead you on a downward spiral to eternal destruction, and since our heavenly Father ***DOES NOT WANT even one of His created beings to perish***, He admonishes us to ***NOT*** be overcome by evil, ***BUT*** that instead ***WE ARE TO OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD, TOV*** and we learned above that the word ***GOOD, TOV IS*** synonymous with YHVH's Torah. Also understood in this statement ***IS*** that the only way to turn away from evil ***IS*** to turn to YHVH with a surrendered loving contrite and obedient heart, and begin to walk in His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, which ***IS*** the ***ONLY WAY*** to distinguish ***GOOD FROM EVIL***, for ***IF*** we rely on our own understanding we will indeed be lead astray and perish.

Next YHVH tells us to overcome evil ***WITH GOOD***. How can we know what ***IS GOOD***? Do we seek it from our church fathers, or do we seek it from our government, or do we seek it from the wise men of this world? The answer to all of these questions ***IS*** a resounding ***NO***. There is only ***ONE THAT IS GOOD ACCORDING TO MESSIAH***, *Matthew 19:17*, and therefore there ***IS*** only ***ONE*** source where we can get the answer to ***WHAT IS GOOD*** and that of course ***IS*** from our heavenly Father, from His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Life Giving Torah, His directives for everlasting Life made flesh, ***OUR MESSIAH, THE LIVING TORAH***. Amen

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amen