LIVING SACRIFICE

Throughout Romans, Paul has described the incredible and extraordinary generosity of God manifested in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. What response should this sacrificial generosity evoke in us? According to Paul, the only reasonable and rational response to God’s mercy is to present our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). If God sacrificed for us, we can do no less than present ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him.

In the Old Testament, most sacrifices were bloody (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus’ sacrifice certainly was. The sacrifice Paul calls us to is a living, not a dying sacrifice. A living sacrifice involves the surrender of our long-cherished ways and adding inclinations to God’s ways. We do this by presenting our bodies to God and refusing to conform to the ways of the world and by the continual transformation and renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2). The life of a living sacrifice involves both the body and the mind. Believers seek to conform their embodied lifestyle to their renewed minds.

Minds are not renewed once and for all. Throughout our lives, we will be continually challenged by new circumstances that require us to prove what is good and acceptable to God (Romans 12:2). Understanding the perfect will of God is an ongoing process that requires regular testing or proving. Day by day, we will encounter new and challenging opportunities to live out our Christian commitment. These challenges should be confronted prayerfully and responded to through the study of God’s Word.
Write out Romans 12:1–8 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 12. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What does it mean to you to be a living sacrifice.

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/rom10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What does it mean to behave with brotherly love toward one another?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom10-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Corinthians 1:10
Ephesians 5:8–10
1 Peter 2:19–25
1 Peter 3:8–17

What other verses come to mind about practical love and Christian living?

Review your memorized verse from Romans 12.
Meditate on Romans 12 again and look for where Jesus is.

How have you ever treated a persecutor with kindness? What was their response?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom10-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what applications are you convicted of in your personal life?

What applications are you convicted of in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/rom10-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Describe a time when you have prayerfully studied God’s Word to navigate a tricky moral dilemma.

How have you deliberately chosen to associate with the humble?

In what ways has following Jesus helped you to cultivate greater empathy?

Have you ever struggled to live at peace with someone? Did you do all you could? How did it resolve?

How can preferring others over ourselves contribute to unity in the church?

What does it mean to love without hypocrisy?

How have you used your gifts to build up the body of Christ?

Have you fallen into the ditch of either pride or self-deprecation? How has Jesus’ death in your behalf helped resolve this mistake?