

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

## **Warm Up**

Why did God make Adam and Eve? What was his goal or purpose for creating humans?

Share some of the false things people say. *God made people because.....*

### **1. Sermon for September 13, 2020**

**Text: Romans 12:1-8**

**Theme: It's not your body to use as you want - Thank God!**

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

2. What motivation does Paul use to urge us Christians to offer our bodies as living sacrifices?

3. Following Paul's counsel, list some good ways to start your day with this focus so your whole day and behavior are characterized as *a living sacrifice*.

4. The opening word *Therefore* leads us to explore what he said before this - his foundation and springboard. This reminds us that Paul didn't put a chapter division here. *Therefore* follows...

<sup>32</sup> For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments  
and how untraceable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his adviser?"

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has first given to God  
that he will be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

What a vista of mercy! Where is God's mercy celebrated and articulated in these verses?

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5. What does *holy and pleasing to God* reveal about the character and purpose of our worship?
6. The EHV: *appropriate worship* - NIV84 & HCSB: *spiritual worship* - NIV: *true and proper worship* - KJV: *reasonable service*  
*Worship* = service to God, a religious duty expected by the deity, to perform a religious rite  
The adjective: *logikos* - thoughtful, rational, reasonable, true to nature - not physical
7. List some of the draws or natural inclinations that draw us to slide back into *conforming to the pattern of this world*?
8. The Greek word for repentance literally means: \_\_\_\_\_ of mind (mindset)

Now compare that definition to these words: *be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God — what is good, pleasing, and perfect.*

What 1 word summarizes the Christian life - life of worshiping the Living God?

**Good:** useful, beneficial, absolutely (morally) excellent

**Pleasing:** giving pleasure or satisfaction, acceptable.

**Perfect:** complete, mature, achieving its intended purpose (*It is finished*)

What are the benefits or purposes of being able to *test and approve what is the will of God*

9. What is the source of the inclination *to think of yourself more highly than you ought*?

Paul offers this antidote: *think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you.*

How do you come to this sound judgments? What's the source of false *sound judgment*?

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The phrase: *as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you* is challenging. Thank God our faith **doesn't** have to reach at a certain measure (maturity or size) to be saving faith. You have *saving faith* or you don't.

Jesus did chide Peter and later the 12 for their *little faith*, while commending the Gentile woman and later the Gentile Centurion for their *great faith*.

What's the character of *little faith*?

What's the character of *great faith*?

Does this type of *measure of faith* seem to fit here?

**Faith** is not only used as the noun for our trust, but also as the object of our trust - the Holy Christian Faith - the body of teaching God has revealed in Christ. (subjective - objective). Using this definition, what is Paul telling them to do?

10. The concept of *membership* in a congregation comes from this passage and others like it. What do most people today think membership means?

What is Paul teaching us by calling us a *member* of the body of Christ.

11. Highlight the *appropriate worship (serving God)* for each of the 7 gifts. What does each *appropriate use* reveal about God's design or mission?

*<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup> If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.*

**Prophecy** - (proclaiming on God's behalf)

**Serving** -

**Teaching** -

**Encouraging** -

**Contributing** -

**Leadership** -

**Showing mercy** -

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## **First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

12. As we read verse 15-18, consider: How would you characterize Jeremiah's state of mind?  
In what ways can you identify with him?

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you understand.  
Remember me and care for me.  
Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.  
You are slow to anger.  
Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.  
<sup>16</sup> Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy,  
the delight of my heart,  
because I bear your name,  
O LORD God of Armies.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit with the band of partygoers,  
nor did I celebrate with them.  
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.  
You filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unending?  
Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?  
Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,  
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

Contrast what Jeremiah knew about the LORD vs. his frustration with the unknown.

## **13. Read verse 19-21.**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord says.  
If you repent, I will take you back,  
so that you may stand before me.  
If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,  
you will be my spokesman.  
They must turn to you,  
but you must not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.  
They will fight against you,  
but they will not overcome you,  
because I am with you to save you  
and to rescue you, declares the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,  
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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What did Yahweh want Jeremiah to repent of?

What did Yahweh promise to do for Jeremiah? In what ways?

## **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-26**

14. Our Lesson begins: <sup>21</sup>*From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.*

Peter had just confessed, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Why did Jesus wait until then to reveal these things to the disciples?

What is Matthew saying with these words: *...began to show his disciples that he had to go...*

15. What strikes you about v. 22 - the words and the EHV translation?

<sup>22</sup>*Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”*

16. *You are a snare to me...* - *Snare: skondelon* - originally: the rock help up by a stick attached to food. An animal that takes the food, puts the rock down on them.

What words do you find best to translate this? Do you recall common options?

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17. Mark is a bit clearer in Mark 8:33

*But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."*

Peter kept it private. Jesus didn't. Why?

18. What is this: *thinking ...the things of men*?

19. How would you explain the following words to someone who has never heard them?

*<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"*

What does it mean to *follow Jesus*?

What was the purpose and significance of a *cross* at Jesus' time?

What does it mean *to save his life*? How does he *lose it*?

What does it mean to *loses his life for my sake*? What does Jesus mean: he *will find it*?

What does it mean *to forfeits his soul*? Isn't everyone always going to have their soul?