

PRESENTING OUR BODIES

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.** 2And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The will of God demands a personal sacrifice. Martyrdom is an extreme sacrifice not expected of many. However God expects that we present our bodies as living sacrifices. In Old Testament times animal sacrifices were slaughtered and then placed on the altar. This was the manner in Old Testament times how man offering sacrifices for his sin. However, we are now in Christ whom God made the last and final sacrifice for sin. The unsaved of this world need disciples to go and tell them about Christ. It is our reasonable service. (Rom 12:1b)

MAT 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; "

There will always be a need for more harvesters. Harvesting souls is the result of personal sacrificial sowing. Some sow; some reap. Someone must answer the call!

1 COR 1:19 **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you,** which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?** 20**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

The church in Corinth had a large number of believers who were full of “fleshly” behaviour. (1Cor 1:18)

Because Christ paid the price of death on the “cross” in presenting His body as the final sin offering, we must consider that we are not our own property. (1 Cor 1:19b) Therefore it is reasonable for church leaders and members to live in a manner that will glorify God in their (God given) bodies and spirits. (1Cor 1:20)

JN 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me?" Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **Lovest thou me?** And he said unto him, **Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep."**

“Lovest thou me”? This was a challenging question. Jesus was getting to the heart of the matter. Peter said “yes”, but Jesus asked the same question again.

Sometimes we don't answer from the heart. Only when Jesus received a response from the heart did He say, "feed my sheep".

JN 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? 21Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, **and what shall this man do?** 22Jesus saith unto him, **"If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."**

Peter thought that Jesus might give John a better job than he was given to do; the feeding of sheep. (Joh 21:21) It is better to obey His voice without argument. Any inside knowledge of what John was going to do for the Lord was not Peter's business. God's work is different for every believer (Joh 21:22) "follow thou me"

EZE 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: **but I found none.** 31Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; **I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath:** their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

God is looking for His chosen ones (men or women) to do his work.

JN 4:35 "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.** "

Spiritual eyes see an immediate harvest. Don't put it off till a later date, go now.

JN 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. "

ACT 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

DAN 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

DAN 3:17 If it be *so*, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,** and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

DAN 3:18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image** which thou hast set up.

ACT 4:13 Now when **they saw the boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; **and they took knowledge of them**, that they had been with Jesus. 14And **beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.** 15But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that **indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them** *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and **we cannot deny it.** 17But that it spread no further among the people, **let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.** 18And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20For **we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.** 21So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: **for all men glorified God for that which was done.**

Peter and John were determined to work for God. (Act 4:20-21)

They had only one course of action, for there was such fire of the Holy Spirit working within them that miracles were on an hourly basis. They could hardly believe what God was doing; they obviously told everyone they met what God was doing. Hence the words, “We cannot but speak” (v.20)

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And be not conformed – (Neither in lifestyle, spirit, nor behavior)

To this world – Which means neglecting the will of God, for some believers were following a worldly course.

That ye may prove – We know by sure trial that the renewing process is not easily achieved; only by those who have thus presented themselves to God.

What is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God - The will of God is something all believers should walk in. We must understand all the reasons for living for and serving God, by obedience, which is a blessed faith lifestyle, so acceptable to God.