By the Mercies of God

Grace Fellowship Church | Independence Campus Ethan Thomas | Director of Worship January 14, 2024

I. Spiritual Service Of Worship

Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

True worship that is acceptable and pleasing to God is done by those that are filled with the Spirit and who stand on the truth of God's word.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Sacrificial Spiritual Life of Worship, or as Jesus put it in John 4:24, spirit and true worship is an inward change of the heart.

The Spirit of Christ must live inside of us to worship God rightly because we cannot do anything pleasing to God on our own. But when we are in Christ Jesus and His Spirit lives inside of us, we are then able to truthfully and genuinely worship Him through the Holy Spirit as He enables us.

Galatians 5:24-25 "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

John 1:1-3

Colossians 1:16-17

II. Knowing Him By The Mercies Of God

Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God ... "

The only way you and I are ever able to fully worship God, in holy sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to Him is by the very mercy of God.

There is no sin in God. There is no deceit in Him. There is no flaw in Him. He is altogether good and perfect. Knowing all of this to be true, knowing of God's goodness, holiness, and existence, being sinners we still did not honor Him

Romans 1:21 "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Because we loved our sin rather than God; we loved the creature and not the Creator.

What are these mercies?

- 1. We are justified by Faith
- 2. Our sins are forgiven through the atonement of Christ Jesus
- 3. God works all things together for our good
- 4. God calls people to Himself

Romans 11:36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

As Christians, the more we know Him, the more we will love Him. And the more we love Him, the more we will desire to obey Him and devote ourselves to Him, and to live our lives as a holy sacrifice to Him, live our lives as an act of spiritual worship to Him.