



PRESENT

“to present your bodies. . .” – Romans 12:1b

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NASB).

sōma – entire being

Mark 12:28-30 “One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all ?” 29 Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL ! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD ; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’”



Church Family Challenge

Read –

- **Monday: The First Presentation to the King**

“After hearing the king, they went their way ; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother ; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.” (Matthew 2:9-11, NASB).

What did these travelers do that made them so wise?

First, these wise men sought out Jesus.

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews ? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2:1,2, NASB).

We saw His star and we followed it, we have searched for the Savior!

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8).

Do you want a more meaningful relationship with Jesus this year? Seek after God, grow closer to Christ, search after Him and as a result He will be closer to you! This is a direct cause effect on the relationship. [The more you are searching after Jesus, getting more into His Word, praying and trying to please Him, He is always there.](#) But it takes spending time with Him....it's the same with any other relationship, to grow you must communicate, so commune with Jesus by spending each morning in prayer and reading His Word.

I heard this story once of the couple that lived in the farm lands. They had long drives to town to buy goods or sell what they grew. One day they got into the truck headed back home after loading feed for the animals and the wife looked at her husband and said, “we’ve grown apart.” Her husband looked at her and said, “what do ya’ mean?” she said,

“when we were younger on the drive we used to snuggle the whole way to town and the whole way back.....but now we don’t.” The husband looked at her and said, “well honey, I haven’t changed seats.”

Isn't that a good explanation of our relationship to Jesus. In the relationship He is the driver, He's bringing us forward and He never moves, He is always there, but we can slowly pull away unwittingly. Later you may say, I don't feel His presence any more....or....I pray but it doesn't feel like He hears. Well He didn't move, He hasn't changed seats, you have.

“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:1,2).

What's causing the separation... sin, and anything you put as priority before your relationship with Christ. He says I want to catch you as you fall, my arms are strong I won't drop you, but you won't let me, I can hear me when you call, I hear your cries but you have left my side. [A wise person clings to the Lord and stays at His side.](#)

The way to become a wise person this year, this day and this minute is to seek after Jesus and never leave His side. Stay close and grow closer everyday....AMEN!

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find ; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7,8).

Become a seeker, looking to grow in Jesus, looking for ways to please Him, seeking truth in His Word and seeking to apply it to your life. Because wise men still seek Him today.

The next thing the wise men did was they gave gifts and they did not count the cost. They said to Herod we want to worship Him and part of the worship was giving their gifts. Let me ask....What gift did you give Jesus this year?

Well honestly....what can you give? Everything we have He has blessed us with. So what can we give that only we control?

“...to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice ... which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1).

Just like the wise men sought out the King of Kings to present Him their gifts of worship, so should you. Present Him with your gift of worship and that gift as it says here is your life lived as a sacrifice for Him.

Do you wish to be wise. . .bring the gift of greatest price before the King. There is wisdom in presenting Christ a gift of worth.

What stuck out to you in today's reading?

- **Tuesday: A DAY TO REMEMBER**

“Therefore <http://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/romans/12.html - cr-descriptionAnchor-1> I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to <http://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/romans/12.html - cr-descriptionAnchor-2> present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, <http://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/romans/12.html - fn-descriptionAnchor-a> acceptable to God, which is your <http://www.biblestudytools.com/nas/romans/12.html - fn-descriptionAnchor-b> spiritual service of worship. (Romans 12:1, NASB)

A presentation, paristémi, is a particular time, a defined moment, were a presentation of an object is made. Is there a moment in your life that you can remember saying, “Jesus, my life is for you”? That is what Paul is saying, have that moment, give yourself back to Jesus because of what He has done for you. It’s an act of worshipping God to live for Him. It is an act of worship to follow His example. Have the moment you can look back to and say I laid my life at the feet of the KING, I presented myself as the only thing I could offer, no Gold, or silver would do.....Following Jesus, cost my life! It’s a commitment – looking back that is the day I presented my life for Him to use.

Baptism can be that moment, baptism is when you publicly declare to Follow Christ’s footsteps, when you present yourself before God and man as one that has trusted Christ as Savior and committing to change in Him.

Romans 6:3,4 “3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Water baptism is a metaphor of what you have done in Christ! You go under the water representing death of self and coming up a new person in Jesus. When it says we have all been baptized into His death it means we have all been covered by His death on the cross, covered or immersed in His grace!

We started as mere people, we were washed by His blood and immersed in His Spirit, covered by His grace and now we are a new being in Him. So walk in the new life we have in Him. Just like the wool would be dipped into bleached to take out the stains and imperfections and immersed into the dye to become a new color. We are washed in the forgiveness of His death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and we are immersed into His love, mercy and grace. Now we are a new person!

Think of when Christ was baptized in **Matthew 3**. . . He was presenting Himself to the Father for use over the next three years. What was God’s reaction to the Son offering His life for service? **“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matthew 3:16,17, NASB).**

Have you been baptized? When you were why did you do it? Have you ever considered when you presented yourself obedient to Christ and a believer to people in baptism, you were also presenting yourself as a sacrifice for Christ to God?

Take a moment and let these ideas sink in and list any thoughts or ideas that come to mind based on today’s reading.

• Wednesday: Read Romans 12:1,2

In response to God’s mercies, Paul challenges us “to present” (*paristemi*) our bodies.¹⁸ Although this exhortation is not an imperative, it should be understood as such (cf. 12:2).¹⁹ But please note that Paul does not say “yield” or “surrender” your bodies but “present” them. Yield and surrender are biblical terms, but they imply a measure of reluctance or hesitancy. Present, on the other hand, implies a glad, happy, willing offering of oneself. If I yield or surrender a gift to my wife, she will not be impressed by my efforts. Our presentation of our bodies to God as a sacrifice for His use, just like my presentation of a gift to my wife, is to be a joyous and spontaneous act.²⁰ God is not asking you to dedicate your gifts, abilities, money, time, ideas, creativity, or any such thing. He is asking you to sacrifice yourself.²¹ This is an appeal to those who have been set free by grace to live under grace by presenting all that they are to God. Incidentally, Paul uses the same verb “to present” (*paristemi*) in 14:10 where it means that one day you will “present” yourself before the judgment seat of Christ.²² If you faithfully “present” your body to Christ you will experience great reward at the bema. *Beliefs should impact behavior.*¹

How can I “present” my body to God as an act of worship ([Rom 12:1](#))? What does this look like on a daily basis? What parts of my body are most prone to disobey (e.g., eyes, lips, feet)? What sins am I most susceptible to? What area(s) of my life is God asking me to sacrifice to Him?

¹ Excerpt taken from Keith Krell, 23. Transformed: More than Meets the Eye

- **Thursday: TRUE WORSHIP – DR. Tony Evans, from: March 16th, 2015**

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

(Romans 12:1)

The problem with many Christians is that, while they have made a decision to become a Christian by trusting in Jesus Christ for their salvation, they have not yet made a decision to become a disciple. They have not surrendered their lives in such a way so as to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ. The difference between a decision-maker and a follower is simply *surrender*.

What Paul is telling us in the passage of Romans 12:1–2 is that God wants us to present us to Him. He wants you to put you on the altar. You are to present your life—that means all of you—to Him on His altar. Keep in mind, in the Old Testament times when a sacrifice was placed on an altar, the priest did not just put the head, or the arm, or a portion of the lamb on the altar. He put the entirety of the being on the altar. What too many believers have done is put a portion of their time, talents, and treasures on God’s altar and assumed it is enough.

It is not. God wants all of you to be given to Him.

In fact, throughout Scripture we read that anytime God wanted to do something big for His people, He always required a sacrifice first. There had to be something present that demonstrated sincerity and commitment. See, worship is not simply singing songs on a Sunday. True worship, as outlined in Romans 12, is giving yourself to God in your entirety. True worship includes surrender.

Spirit worship is something that comes from your entire being from a heart of thankfulness and not religious duty. Where do you find your worship?

What are you holding back from God?

Pray – Lord, I take my life, my ordinary life and everything it entails today: sleeping, eating, going to work and I place it before you as an offering. I embrace what you have done for me and what you continue to do in me. Help me this day to not simply go with the flow of the culture around me but instead to pay attention to you in all things. Change me Lord from the inside out. Help me to recognize what you want from me and to quickly respond to your will. Bring out the best in me today as you make me more like you. Amen.

ACT – Sign-Up for one of our Transformed POD Groups near you this WEEK!!! Commit today to start the change that needs to take place in your life. Stop putting off the work and growth that God wants to do in your life!