

**Agape House of Worship**  
**Mid Week Bible Study**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2022**  
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**Topic: LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL, Main Texts: Romans 12 & 13**

**INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

The gospel is, in broad terms, the entirety of Scripture; more narrowly, it is the good news about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation.

- We are not ashamed to proclaim the gospel because it is a bold message. Because it is God's good news, it is a powerful message. (Romans 1:16)
- It is a salvation message, and it is the only thing capable of truly reforming the human heart. It is received by faith; salvation is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- The gospel is the good news that God loves the world enough to send His only Son to die in our place for our sins (John 3:16).
- The gospel is good news because it guarantees our salvation, eternal life, and place in heaven through Christ (John 14:1-4).
- The gospel is good news when we recognize that we do not (and cannot) earn our salvation and that the work of redemption and justification has been completed on the cross (John 19:30).
- The gospel is the good news that through the blood of Christ, we who were once God's enemies have been reconciled and adopted into God's family (Romans 5:1)
- The gospel proclaims that "those who are in Christ Jesus have no condemnation" (Romans 8:1).

**Romans 12 -This chapter discusses how to live out your faith practically.**

In order to live out the gospel, there are certain things we must do as Paul breaks it down in chapter 12.

Without a relationship with the father, a person simply has no spiritual capacity to do so.

Therefore I urge you, [b]rothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

**To answer the question 'What is our 'Reasonable act of worship?', we need to understand 'What worship is'.**

**'Worship is the deliberate giving of glory to God through the way we live our lives. We seek to increasingly focus on God's Kingdom, His will and purpose for our lives, and how our response will bring Him glory in every daily activity, every encounter with people, every circumstance, every conversation, every thought, every place, every relationship, every use of our talents and the resources that we have been given, and every choice that we make. In other words, we are to live our lives in a constant state of worship. When we work, play, and interact with others "as to the Lord and not unto men," we bring glory to God.**

2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be [c]transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

### WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

#### 1. Verse 1- 2 Total Surrender

- I beseech you** - Paul appeals to our will and asks us to make a decision about how we will live for God.
- By God's mercies** - We can only do this because of God's mercy (Romans 1-11), and we can only offer ourselves to God as He works His mercy in us. God has commanded us to do so, and He has made it possible for us to do so.
- Present your bodies** - In this context, the body refers to our entire being. Our bodies house our spirit, soul, flesh, and mind. God desires you, not just your service. You can serve in ministries and work yourself to exhaustion, but never surrender your heart or give Him your entire being.

#### 2. Verse 3 - 8 Humility

Recognize who you are. Christ is the one who saved you, not you. Christ has assigned each of us to His body of believers. We collaborate to form a well-functioning body. A church functions properly when its members, who have various spiritual gifts, use those gifts in ways that honor Christ. But it all starts with a humble attitude.

#### 3. Verses 9-20: Love, and do it as God does

God's people are called to love one another while remaining spiritually zealous in our pursuit of the Lord. We seek to gently correct our neighbor when he falls and encourage what is good in him. This is not always easy because we are prone to disagree. When those differences contradict God's Word, we must be steadfast in our desire to correct our erring Christian brother or sister. When we are victims of the wrongdoing of another Christian, we must forgive them because God has forgiven us.

### Romans 13

This chapter discusses how Christians can live peacefully and orderly in this sinful world before Christ's return. We are not to live in a worldly, unholy way, nor are we to completely abandon our role in society, our submission to the authorities put in place to govern, or our duty to love our neighbor. Paul points out three good lessons in this chapter

#### 1. Subjection to lawful authority (v. 1-7).

There is no authority except the one put in by God -

##### Considerations -

- **If Paul was alive today, would he have written these 7 verses the same?**
- **What is lawful authority?**
- **What is the God-ordained authority?**
- **The church sometimes tries to act like the government and I am not sure this is what Paul meant when he wrote.**

**Pray for those in authority so there can be peace. Don't get caught up in the politics of the whole, that's the antics of the enemy.**

## **2. Justice and love for fellow believers (v. 8-10).**

Love is a debt - Owe no man anything other than to love one another; this is a debt that must always be paid, but is also always owed.

- 1 John 4:16-20 This demonstrates that love fulfills the law. Love is a living, active principle of obeying the entire law.
- Prov. 3:27-29 -

## **3. Verses 11-14 exhort us to holiness - the need to walk temperately in the Spirit rather than after the flesh. To put it simply, live in anticipation of Christ's return.**

The command here is for us to be "Awake!" To take heed of sin, be ready to, and serious about, that which is good, and live in constant expectation of the coming of our Lord,"

- Ps. 78:18. Those who profess to walk in the spirit must not fulfill the lusts of the flesh,
- Gal. 5:16. So that you do not succumb to the temptations of the flesh, walk in the spirit.

## **Conclusion**

To live out the gospel is to live the way God intended for us to live, which you cannot do unless you are spiritually equipped. That entails focusing on spiritual development. We must stop drinking the milk of the word and reach maturity. We must devote ourselves to prayer and anything that brings us closer to God, rather than anything that distances us from Him. One of the simplest ways to do this is to belong to a local assembly where you are spiritually growing.

If you don't currently have a home church, please visit us at 239 East 1st Avenue, Roselle NJ, or online.