

Sermon: Worship as a Living Sacrifice.
Series: The Heart of Worship.

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2.
Date: April 26, 2026

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) What comes to mind when you hear the word worship?
- b) "We all worship something and we become like what we worship." This is what Paul calls "conforming to the world." In what ways can you relate to these ideas? In what ways has your worship led to conformity to the world.
- c) Pastor Mark talked about our "functional gods," or idols. Answer one of these questions to help you identify your idols. What are you most worried about losing or never attaining? What are you most willing to sacrifice for? What has made you bitter or been hard to forgive? Where do you turn for comfort? Whose approval do you seek the most?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Paul doesn't appeal to his own authority, or even the law of God. He appeals to the mercies of God. How can cherishing the mercies of God allow you to "lay your yes," on the altar (say yes to the will of God)? Specifically, what mercy of God allows you to trust him with your whole heart?
- b) Paul says we must discern the will of God. God's will isn't a specific choice, but it is a way of thinking that leads to good choices. Therefore, what is the role of mind renewal in discerning God's will? Can you identify mind renewal at work in your own life – a new way of thinking and choosing?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Compare Romans 12:1-2 to 2 Corinthians 3:18 (both use the word transformed). What is the cause and effect of our transformation in each? How are these two ideas connected?
- b) Our transformation happens from the inside out as we worship God and serve him by serving others? How can you see this internal change occurring in your life over the past few months? Years? Decades?

APPLICATION

- a) In order to be a living sacrifice, something has to die. What do you need to lay on the altar in order to be a living sacrifice this week? Or where do you need to say yes to God?

PRAYER

- Praise God for all of his many mercies in Christ.
- Confess ways that you have conformed to the world.
- Thank Jesus for being the goal of our worship – being like him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to transform you into Christ likeness as you behold him (2 Cor. 3:18).