STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 25 - Living Sacrifices - Romans 12:1-8

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Give Your All to God

12For that reason, my brothers and sisters, because God has been so very merciful toward us, I plead with you: Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to be lived in a manner totally pleasing to Him. This should be the intelligent, faithful response of your whole being.*

Romans 12:1 – "This should be the intelligent, faithful response of your whole being.*" i.e. which is the spiritual way for you to worship (NCV).

²So don't blindly and obediently run with the pack and allow the world crowd to force you to conform to their low standards. Instead, you must now allow God to continually transform you by the renewing of your mind, so that you may be able to examine and choose what is good, acceptable, and altogether pleasing to Him.

³Now, by authority of the undeserved assignment God has given me, I have something to say to every one of you: Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think. Instead, look at yourself as you really are, in accordance to the measure of faith God has given you.

⁴We all have one body with many parts, and the parts don't all have the same work to do.

⁵In the same way, although we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of the one body.

⁶Each of us have different gifts, according to how God has blessed us. If your gift is prophecy, you should faithfully prophesy according to what you are confident that God has revealed to you.

⁷If your gift is to serve and help others, you should do so with all the ability and opportunity God has given you. If you are gifted to teach, teach God's word faithfully, without any compromise.

⁸If you have the gift of preaching, you should be most diligent in your preparation and in your preaching. The one who gives should give generously,* but not in a way that will bring praise to himself. If you have the gift of leadership you should

lead with earnest diligence and enthusiasm. And when you show mercy, do so cheerfully.

Romans 12:8 - "The one who gives should give generously.*" Original word means both *generously* and *with simplicity*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 25 - Living Sacrifices - Romans 12:1-8

- 291. How do people properly worship God? (12:1)
- 292. What is the most reasonable response to God's great mercy? (12:1-2)
- 293. How is the Christian to be different from unbelieving people? (12:2)
- 294. How should the mind of a Christian be changed? (12:2)
- 295. What must happen in order for a person to discern and agree with the will of God? (12:2)
- 296. How should Christians think about themselves? (12:3)
- 297. What facts should keep a person from feeling superior or inferior to other Christians? (12:3-6)
- 298. What did Paul use the human body to illustrate? (12:4-5)
- 299. What makes Christians different from one another? (12:4-6)
- 300. In what way are all Christians alike? (12:4-6)
- 301. What are the gifts of God? (12:6-8)
- 302. How should each person use his or her gifts? (12:6-8)
- 303. What right does God have to ask us for a full-life commitment to Him?
- 304. What makes offering our bodies as living sacrifices an act of worship?

Lesson 26 - Love - Romans 12:9-21

Rules to Live By

⁹Your love must be genuine, with your whole heart. Always turn away from what is evil with real hatred for it, but continue to cling to what is good.

- ¹⁰Love each other like brothers and sisters, and honestly desire that others be honored instead of yourself.
- ¹¹Don't be lazy or haphazard about your work or business. Serve the Lord in every situation, burning with fervent zeal.
- 12Continually rejoice in the sure hope we have, and always be patient when you are going through severe trials *and persecution*. In regard to prayer: Keep praying earnestly *until you receive the answer*.
- ¹³Always share what you have with God's people who are in need. And always be delightfully hospitable, *sharing your home and blessings there with others*.
- 14Also keep helping and encouraging those who are persecuting you. Don't ask God to curse them, but sincerely keep asking Him to bless them.
- ¹⁵Rejoice with those who are rejoicing, and weep with those who are weeping.
- 16Have the same interest and concern for everyone. Don't cater to the rich, the intelligent, the beautiful, and other so-called important people, but show equal interest in the common people. And don't get puffed up with your own importance.
- ¹⁷Never harm anyone in repayment for the harm they did to you. Others are always watching you, so for their sake make it a matter of fixed principle and practice to always be open about doing what is right.
- 18Whenever possible, when the decision is yours, live at peace with everyone.
- ¹⁹The main reason you should not take revenge and give vent to your anger, my friends, is because you should allow God to handle the situation. God has said,
 - "Revenge for wrongdoing is my responsibility. I will repay him." (Dt. 32:35)
- ²⁰"So if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. Because in so doing, it will be the same as heaping coals of fire on his head." (*Prov.* 25:21-22)
- ²¹Never allow evil to conquer you. Instead conquer evil by doing good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 26 - Love - Romans 12:9-21

- 305. What should we hate? (12:9)
- 306. What is genuine love like? (12:9, 13, 18-21)
- 307. What attitudes should we strive to have? (12:9-16)
- 308. What down-to-earth advice did Paul give? (12:9-21)

- 309. In what ways ought we to treat others as more important than ourselves? (12:10, 13, 16, 20)
- 310. What instructions does God want us to observe in our relationships? (12:10, 13-21)
- 311. How is a Christian to treat enemies? (12:14, 17-21)
- 312. With whom does God want us to live at peace? (12:18)
- 313. Why should we not take revenge? (12:19)
- 314. What is the purpose of showing kindness to an enemy? (12:20)
- 315. How does doing good to an enemy overcome evil?
- 316. In what ways can you honor someone above yourself?