

I SURRENDER ALL

Romans 12:1-2

1st Kings 20:1-4

Luke 22:42

Introduction: Today is the first day of 2012. Many times people make resolutions. The number one resolution is to lose weight. That is okay but I want us to look at this year in the light of eternity. Who knows that this may be the last year we are here. We may be in heaven before the year is over. That would be great but before we go, it would be great that we have done our best for Jesus. You and I will not do this until we surrender all. Each of the passages we have read each have the thought of surrender all.

On September 29, 1972, I was at the first revival meeting that I had ever been since I was saved. I heard a man by the name of Norris Ward preaching. Every night he pleaded with sinners to be saved. Every invitation was like that until this night. It was a Friday night. That night in the invitation, he said that he knew that God wants some young man to surrender to preaching of the Gospel. There were other young men there that night. There were five of us boys there that night even though my youngest brother was a baby. Pastor Cutlip's three sons were there also. He did not talk of having a heavenly vision that had told him to say that. He knew Romans chapter twelve. When the invitation was given that night, I did not go forward even though those words were for me.

After service that night I talked with Brother Ward. I told him that God was speaking to my heart. He encouraged me to read and memorize Romans 12:1-2. That day was the first time I gave my life to Christ for service. I remember thinking that I could not do this. That thought should be part of my life because without Christ I can not do this- preaching the Word of God.

My mother told me that I ought to call my grandmother. I called her and asked her if she could guess what had happened. She told me that God had called me to preach. I asked her who told her. She told me that she had been praying for years that one of her sons who were saved would preach. When this did not happen, she started to pray for the grandchildren to be saved and that one of her grandsons would be a preacher of the gospel. As far as I know she never told anyone that before. She wanted that grandson to be God called. I am glad even today that I was able to be a blessing to her and the answer to prayer.

The Lord has been so good to me these past thirty-nine years. He called me that night to surrender my life. Later on He led me to my first church. On February 9, 1992, God brought me here. All the events of my life since I've been saved can go back to September 28, 1972.

Paul says that he is beseeching us. When you beseech which is another word for beg, you are not commanding. Begging is a verbal desire from whatever the person who is begging wants you to do. It is like the numerous times my mother asked my stepfather not to drink again because it was going to kill him. It makes me think of what I have heard mothers and fathers begging their children not to do drugs again.

You must remember that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and when the Lord allowed verses like we will be reading today, it carries the weight of God's desire for us. He desires that we voluntarily go down the path of obedience. As you walk down this path you will stumble over happiness. It will not always be easy. If it was easy, you could not learn total dependence upon Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

There are three parts of you that the Lord wants. If you have given Him all three, then you have given all.

I. THE LORD IS BESEECHING YOU FOR YOUR BODY.

Vs. 1

Sunday Morning January 1, 2012
Freedom Baptist Church

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

The Lord desires that you give Him your body. It is so much better to do this as a child than as an adult. As a child, you are giving something that which is fresh and basically new. If you wait until you are an adult, it is like giving the Lord what is left. Yes, He can still use your body but how long. This body does not belong to you anyway.

1st Corinthians 6:19-20

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

It is the temple of the Lord. It is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. Giving your body is a privilege to glorify and honor Christ.

One of the greatest examples of giving of your body as a living sacrifice is seen in the life of Isaac. There are lots of similarities in the life of Isaac and the Lord Jesus.

1. Both had miraculous births. Isaac was born of his parents in their old age. Jesus was born of the virgin without the aid of a man.
2. Both were a delight to their parents.
3. Both were submissive to the will of their fathers. Isaac is seen in Genesis chapter twenty-two when his father was ready to offer him up as a sacrifice. He did not fight against his father.
4. Both carried the wood up the mountain for their deaths. Both had wood of sacrifice.
5. Both were willing to die.
6. Both had the promise of resurrection.

When Isaac was bound and laid upon the altar, he was a living sacrifice. This scene represents what the Lord expects of us. Isaac is never seen questioning his father on why he is going to be the sacrifice. He never seen struggling with his father in being the sacrifice. He is seen as submissive the will of His Father knowing that his father knew what was best.

Abraham believed God so much that his son was the heir of promise that he knew that when he walked off that mountain that his son would be with him. You ask me how I know this. I see his faith in the Lord and His power even resurrection power in Genesis 22:5.

"And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass" and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." See how he worded that **"I and the lad will go and come again to you."** Abraham believed God.

So when God asks for your body, it is not unreasonable to give it to Him. It is reasonable service to do so. Reasonable involves the thought that this is act of debt. God cleansed, changed our lives with the price of His dear Son's death on Calvary. Now He wants us to fulfill our debt. I do not work for Christ in order to be saved but because I am saved. Service involves the thought that it is an act of duty. It is time for Christians every where to present their bodies as living sacrifices unto God.

The word **"present"** represents a definite commitment like a man and woman does at the exchanging of their wedding vows. This is right because of the mercies of God. At Calvary, mercy and truth met together and righteousness and peace kissed each other. The mercy of God kept you unto the grace of God found you.

II. THE LORD IS BESEECHING YOU FOR YOUR MIND

Vs. 2a

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"

The world wants to control your mind but God wants to transform. You can see the attempts to control your thinking in all areas.

The world wants to control your thinking about the Lord. It is seen in the choices that it gives to replace God in our lives. It is reflected in the music that is seen today. I am talking about "Christian" music. Lots of the so-called Christian music of today is nothing

less than 7-11 music. That is seven words sung eleven times.

The Lord uses the Word of God to transform our thinking. God will transform your thinking about self. When you get to the point that you realize that you can not do anything of eternal value without Him, you will find that your thinking has been transformed.

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The Lord will transform your thinking about the scriptures. Before you got saved, you may have thought that there were lots of books of equal value as the Bible. After you have been saved and learn more of the Word of God, you find that the more of the Bible you read and learn, the more you want to learn and know.

The Lord will transform your thinking about the Saviour. Before I was saved, I knew He died for my sins but I did not take it serious until that day I was saved and God started that new work in me. The songs that do the most for me in these days are the songs about Him. That is the working of God to transform my thinking about the Saviour.

III. THE LORD IS BESEECHING FOR YOUR WILL

Vs. 2b

"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"

It is God's will for you to serve Him and He will give you the power to do so. Your body is controlled by the mind and the mind is controlled by the will. What is the will of God for your life?

When Paul got hold of the principle that every facet of our lives have to be in the middle of God's will, his life became a shining example of what God could do with a life.

Disciplined prayer surrenders our wills to God. When I wanted to go somewhere else, prayer would bring me back to the will of God to be used anywhere He wishes. When we get to the place of "not my will, but thy will be done", will never and I repeat never have the joy of serving God in every place, thing and circumstance.

Conclusion: Is The Lord beseeching you to surrender to Him? I have had times in my life that I was not surrendered to Him. I went my own direction. One of those times was when I was part of the police department. There is nothing is disgraceful about police work but it is disobedience when you should be preaching the Word of God. The Lord had to break my stubborn will many times throughout the years. He is still working on me. What is the Lord's will for your life? Some of the young people want to play sports your life but have taken no thought what you can do for the Lord Jesus.

Let me see if I can bring this home today. If you have never accepted Christ as your Saviour, you will find it useless to try to surrender your body to God. He wants your heart first. He wants to start that work in there first. If you have never been saved, today is the day you need to be saved.

Secondly, if you have never surrendered your body, mind and will to God, you need to do that today. Won't it be shameful to stand before Christ without ever being able to point back to a day or time that your told Him that He is all you have and what more did you need besides Him.