

## Sunday School Lesson for May 10, 2020

### Kelham Baptist Church

(Charles Harris)

### ROMANS 12, Sacrifices

Perhaps I failed to point out that the basic teaching in the first eleven chapters of Romans is about the grace and mercy of God. The rest of the book basically tells us how those who have been justified by God's grace should respond in the way they live their everyday lives. Specifically, how should we react with other believers? the community? those who oppose us? the government? and even weaker believers? It would be nice to be able to discuss this in regular face-to-face class conditions. These are things we deal with every day as we deal with the conditions affecting our lives. Remember, if you have been justified, God has accounted you righteous. Grace means unmerited favor and mercy is not receiving the penalty you deserve. God is merciful to those who call upon Him and expects believers to walk in fellowship with Him.

**ROMANS 12:1-2.** *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. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Because God has been so merciful to us, we need to dedicate all that we are to God's purpose. By offering our complete selves, we are making a living sacrifice to God, who considers it holy. Being holy, it is acceptable to Him. Considering how much God has given to us, this is a reasonable thing to do. Before we were converted, we were conformed (in a mold) to the world, but being in Christ transforms us by renewing our mind. It is a metamorphosis like a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. In our new self we learn what is good, acceptable, and perfect in the will of God.

Verses 3-8 are not in our written lesson, but would be a good thing to read because it helps us to see how the body of Christ is made up with many members. Our earthly bodies have arms, legs, fingers, toes, eyes, etc.— each member has a specific function that contributes to the body's performance. In the same way, the church is made up with members that have different talents that are gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some have the gift of a minister (advising and comforting others), some have the gift of teaching the Word, some have the gift of exhortation (encouragers). Some

other gifts are giving, preaching, leadership, faith, showing mercy and many others (see 1 Cor 12:8-9, & 28-30, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:9-11).

**ROMANS 12:9-10.** *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring on another.*

Our love should be without hypocrisy. Most anyone can spot false love. Love should be genuine and sincere. We should hate evil and always be on the side of the good. Over and over, Jesus taught that we should love one another, He even called it a “new commandment”. Pride is one of the chief sins and Jesus taught that we should consider others to be greater than ourselves. So, we are to love one another and humble ourselves as compared to others.

**ROMANS 12:11-13.** *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

Whether an owner of a business or an employee, a believer should always do the best he can. He should just be bubbling over with enthusiasm, exhibiting the joy of the spirit. Others should be able to see by his joyful spirit that he is serving the Lord. A believer has the blessed hope of Christ coming to take him to heaven, and when bad things happen, he is patient and keeps praying. A believer cheerfully gives to the Lord’s work and to the needy. He welcomes those who come to him with needs.

**ROMANS 12:14-15.** *Bless them which persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

Do not argue with those that condemn you. Be kind and pray for them. Be happy with those who are rejoicing and be in sorrow with those who have sorrows.

**ROMANS 12:16-18.** *Be of the same mind one toward the other. Mind not the high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

I think these two verses can be summed up with the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” and the last sentence; as much as possible live peaceably with everyone.

The lesson to be learned: There is an old popular song, “I Never Promised You a Rose Garden.” Jesus did not promise us an easy life on earth. He said we would have troubles and hard times. This lesson teaches that we need to sacrifice to live the way Jesus wants us to live. He gave His all to redeem us, the least we can do is to follow closely to His precepts and teach them to others with our dedicated Christian lives.

**PRAY:**

Dear God, Almighty, Heavenly Father: Praises, honor and glory belong to You. You are worthy of our love, praise, and obedience. I thank You Lord for Your sacrifice on the cross that paid the debt for my sins. Your gifts of love, mercy, and grace to me are wonderful and I put my trust in Your everlasting love for me. Give me more faith to trust you more. Oh Father, Creator, and Savior, bless the world leaders and give them wisdom to help stop this virus pandemic that is turning our society upside down. Lord, thousands are praying that You will make it Your will to end this punishment. Lord, I pray this will help bring revival all over the world and especially that the United States will turn from the evil and return to our motto “In God We Trust.” I ask this in the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.