

## **“The Importance of Right Motivation”**

Romans 12:1-2  
Sunday, January 7, 2024

**Introduction:** The right motivation is important in every area of life.

### **1. In the workplace, motivation is important.**

- Some people are motivated by their paycheck. Work is just a job.
- Others are motivated by liking their job and doing their best.

### **2. In school, motivation is important.**

- Some students are motivated by grades.
- Some are motivated by teachers and coaches.
- Some are motivated by learning.

### **3. In athletics, motivation is important.**

- Some athletes are motivated by winning.
- Some are motivated by coaches.
- Some are motivated by ego.
- Some are motivated by their love for their sport.

Nowhere is motivation more important than in the Christian life. Sadly, many Christians have little if any motivation to live a godly life. Equally sad, there are many Christians with the wrong motivation to live a godly life. In Romans chapter 12, the apostle Paul gives the right motivation to live a godly life.

**Text:** Romans 12:1-2

- “beseech” (NKJ) = urge=Paul encouraged the believers in Rome not demanded.
- To reflect on the mercies of God.

### **1. The right motivation to live a godly life is the mercies of God.**

- The NLT says this in a more contemporary way.
- Remembering all that God has done for us is the right motivation to live a godly life.

**Application:** Think of some of the things that God has done for you.

- God made a way for you to spend eternity in heaven.
- God gave you the Holy Spirit to help you, comfort you, and be your counselor until you go to heaven.
- God paid your sin debt with the blood of Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21).

**2. When our motivation is right, we will have a desire to be a living sacrifice.**

- To be a living sacrifice seems an oxymoron because sacrifices are usually dead.
- An oxymoron is a figure of speech that seems to contradict itself, but in context makes a point.

**Illustration:** Some examples: old news, organized chaos, awfully good, accurate estimate, etc.

- In the old covenant, God accepted the sacrifice of dead animals. Because Christ became the ultimate sacrifice, the Old Testament sacrifices are no longer of any effect (Hebrew 9:11-12). For Christians, the only acceptable sacrifice is to offer ourselves completely to God (be a living sacrifice).
- As a living sacrifice (offering ourselves completely to God)

1. Our thinking will be different.
2. Our value system will be different.
3. Our daily walk with God will be different and consistent. How?

1. Our daily time in God's Word will be routine and amazing.

**A Personnel Word:** Whatever your Bible reading plan is I encourage you to begin with Psalm 119:18.

The word translated "see" in Psalm 119:18 in the NKJ is translated and "behold" in the ESV is the Hebrew word "idou" which in our contemporary world would be translated "WOW."

**Illustration:** Perhaps you were given a Christmas gift and when you opened it you said "wow. A "wow" gift is better than a "what" gift.

**Illustration:** A few days after Christmas I was given a "wow" gift. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page).

2. **Our** daily prayer times will be as frequent as breathing.

When we are a living sacrifice, our work for God will one day be our legacy. **Let me ask you:**

- What legacy will you leave your family?
- What legacy will you leave those who know you?
- What legacy will I leave our church?
- I hope Paul's words to the elders in Ephesus can be said of me: "Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love" (Acts 20:24, TLB).
- This is what a living sacrifice is!

**Conclusion:** You can't be a living sacrifice if you have never put your faith in Jesus Christ the ultimate sacrifice. How can you know?

1. Is your thinking different?
2. Is your value system different than the world's value system?
3. Is your daily time in God's word routine and amazing?
4. Do you have a desire to live for God?