Three Calls To Saints

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 28th, 2018

Text: Romans 12:1-2

### Intro

1. Every individual has been called by God to live a life that brings honor and glory to Him *(Col. 3:17, 23-24; II Thess. 2:13-14; II Pet. 1:3)*
2. II Thess. 2:13-14: The gospel calls individuals to obey!
3. Once obeyed the gospel, the saint must change from a child of the world to a child of God!
4. Romans 12:1-2
   1. Paul makes three calls for Christians:
      1. To pay attention
      2. To sacrifice (our will and life to Christ)
      3. To change (be not conformed to the world but transformed for Christ)
5. Transforming happens by the renewal of one’s mind! *(II Cor. 10:5: Taking thoughts captive…)*

#### Call to Attention

* 1. Romans 12:1: Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God…
  2. “URGE” (KJV: “Beseech”) is a strong word in Greek and in English!
     1. “Urge” = *parakaleō [par-ak-al-eh'-o] (G3870): From G3844 and G2564;* to call near, that is, invite, invoke (by imploration, exhortation or consolation); to beg, plead with, or to persuade: - beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort (-ation), intreat, pray.
     2. Paraphrase: “I beg you brethren, give yourselves to God!”
  3. “YOU” – Personal! *As in, do “you” see it? Are “you” listening?*
     1. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, was speaking to the brethren at Rome and through this letter is speaking to “you” and me!
     2. Don’t “you” worry about: what everyone else is doing, what the world is doing, what your brother or sister is doing.
     3. You must do what God wants you to do*! (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:11-12: We each will stand before the “Judgment Seat of Christ” and will give an account)*
  4. “BRETHREN” – Christians, saints
     1. This call is for the redeemed, those in the household of God who are fellow heirs with Jesus; His brothers and sisters *(Rom. 8:14-17)*
     2. If you are not saved, God’s call to you is for salvation first! (Gal. 3:26-29: Faith in Christ leads us to be baptized into Christ, and after that we are heirs!)
     3. You must become part of the family (household) of God *(I Tim. 3:15)* first before this call applies to you!
  5. “BY THE MERCIES OF GOD” – calling to remembrance God’s grace *(Eph. 2:8-9)*
     1. Paul’s strong call to attention (“Urge”/”Beseech”) was based on the mercies of God – Eph. 2:5: “By grace you have been saved! *(Brethren)*
  6. God was calling the Roman saints to attention, and He is calling “you” to attention today!

#### Call to Sacrifice

* 1. Romans 12:1: …to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship
     1. The type of sacrifice—“that you present your bodies…”
  2. LIVING SACRIFICE – God wants not part of, but all of you now!
     1. A total commitment (Luke 9:62: Not a trial basis). God wants you now not 20 years from now. He wants to use you now (Eph. 4:15-16)
     2. Paul had already told the Roman saints to offer themselves to God so that their whole bodies would be for God’s glory (Rom. 6:11-13).
     3. Our bodies are all we have to offer—we live in our bodies (I Cor. 6:15-17)
     4. The body enfolds our emotions, our mind, our thoughts, our desires, and our plans. The body represents the total person; it is the instrument by which all our service is given to God *(Rom. 6:13: Be an instrument of righteousness).*
     5. In order to live for God, we must give Him all that we are, represented by our body *(Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:4-7: Our old self is crucified – we now live for Christ)*
     6. If our body is at God’s disposal, He will have our free time, our pleasures, and all our behavior *(I Cor. 6:18-20: “Glorify God in your body”).*
  3. HOLY SACRIFICE – What is a Holy Sacrifice?
     1. Holy means “set apart.” We are to be set apart from sin! We are not to take on the characteristics of the world. We are not to think like they think, act like they act, talk like they talk, or do like they do (Col. 3:5; I Jn. 2:15-17)
     2. We are to be separated from sin and separated unto God! (Gal. 5:24)
     3. Our new life is a thank-offering to God – Offering our body as a living and holy sacrifice to be completely set apart for God and dedicated to His service *(Col. 3:5: Putting to death the things of the world and sin!)* – I Pet. 1:14-16
  4. ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE - What is an Acceptable Sacrifice?
     1. God doesn’t want rituals but obedience!
     2. Sacrifice was important, but even in the O.T. God made it clear that obedience from the heart was much more important *(I Sam. 15:22; Ps. 40:6; Amos 5:21-24; Mal. 1:6-14))* – Mt. 15:7-9: Jesus says though the Jews worshiped Him, their hearts were far from Him!
     3. God wants us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him, putting all our energy and resources at His disposal, and trusting Him to guide us (Heb. 13:15-16; I Pet. 2:5).
  5. SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE – What is a Spiritual (NKJ: “Reasonable”) Sacrifice?
     1. Let’s look at what God has done for you:
        1. Your past sins are washed away in the blood of Jesus – *Is. 1:18; Acts 22:16; Eph. 1:7*
        2. Your future is settled in heaven – *John 14:1-3; I Pet. 1:4*
        3. Your needs are being provided – *Mt. 6:33 (6:25-31); Phil. 4:19*
     2. To give yourself to God totally and unselfishly (Mk. 12:30), so that He can use you however he sees fit *(Rom. 12:6; I Cor. 12:11: We all have varying abilities but are to use them for the building up of the church – Eph. 4:15-16)*
     3. Jesus gave His all for you and me – We are to give Him our all! (Heb. 12:2-3)
  6. God wants our sacrifice – to put sin to death and live as a new creature in Christ!

#### Call to Transform

* 1. Rom 12:2: And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
  2. Paul wrote the Roman saints that 2 things would aid them in the call to change:
     1. NEGATIVE PRINCIPLE—“…do not be conformed to this world…”
        1. Stop letting the world and its lifestyle shape your minds and character – Stay with Christ! *(Remember you died to sin – Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 3:1-3)*
        2. I Jn. 2:15-17: Not to love the world or things of the world!
     2. POSITIVE PRINCIPLE—“…be transformed by the renewing of your mind…”
        1. The meaning of transformation is to be something different than you are! (Like a caterpillar to a butterfly!)
        2. So many want to transform God’s word, to mold it and conform it to what’s convenient and comfortable to them!
        3. We are to put to death the old self (worldly self and desires) and be a new creature in Christ! (Rom. 6:3-7; Gal. 5:24)
        4. Phil. 4:8: It matters what we dwell or think on (KJV)/meditate on (NKJ)! Think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, things of excellence and worthy of praise!
  3. The child of God will transform his/her life by the renewing of the mind (thoughts)!

## Conclusion

1. Mark 12:30: We are to love God with all we are: heart, soul, mind, strength!
2. Rom. 12:1-2: We can only obey the Lord in giving Him all we are when we answer the call to:
   1. Attention – Pay heed to what is said!
   2. Sacrifice – Glorify God in our bodies (lives)!
   3. Transform – Change from a child of Satan to a child of God!
3. Let us be transformed by the word of God and give glory to Him in the way we live our lives!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
5. If a Christian in error, Repent and return to God!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!