

Sunday November 25, 2018
Sermon Series
“Give It All for Me”
Romans 11:33 – 12:2

This has been a wonderful time of worshiping God. Our initial goal today has been to **connect** with Him in worship. Some of you poured your heart out to the Lord in worship and wish that the worship music would not stop. Others haven't felt into it and have remained a little more reserved and distant. Still others have a mindset of unbelief and maybe even skepticism about this whole idea of God and faith in Him.

A Skeptic might say...

- When God proves to me that He is real, I'll believe in Him.
- Since God has allowed so much evil and suffering in our world, I'll never believe in Him.
- It doesn't make sense to believe in an invisible, elusive God, so I'll put my faith in science and reason.
- I don't care about any of that. Yolo, so I'm going to enjoy life, live it my way. My philosophy is, “don't worry be happy.”

These are the statements of someone who does not know God. When you know God, you think differently. Your mind has been transformed. Romans 11:33 is a statement by someone who actually knows God and has connected with Him.

Romans 11:33-36

I. God's Infinite Nature Defies Comprehension

a. His Wisdom and Knowledge are Deep and Rich (33)

- They're deep – intellectually. The more you try to figure Him out, the more infinitely wise and knowledgeable you learn He is.
- They're rich – emotionally – they get me excited and overwhelmed in a good way. God blows me away!
- He knows all things that can be known – past, present, future
- He knows even the things that seem impossible to know

Even outcomes of things that could have happened but didn't

He knows what you are thinking. He knows when you are sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good... sounds like the world has tried to make someone else into God! 😊

He knows when you are hurting
He knows when you are being tempted
He knows when you are secretly sinning
He knows when your outward actions are driven by selfish motives instead of Godly motives
He knows when you selflessly and sacrificially serve Him – even when no one else knows or sees – He knows.
God knows if a tree makes noise if it falls in the forest and there's no one there to hear it. God knows what would happen if He stopped supplying oxygen for the world. He knows what would happen if he stopped providing gravity in our world. He knows what would happen if the Browns win today... well so do you... that I'll wear a tie again next Sunday and a bunch of people will buy Baker Mayfield jerseys.

There is nothing He needs to be informed about and nothing He needs to learn or understand.

If you're trying to figure God out intellectually before believing in Him, it's no wonder you don't believe. His infinite nature defies comprehension!

- It's ironic that God's infinite nature prompts worship and praise (by believers) and seems to fuel unbelief for skeptics who demand to understand.

b. His Judgments (decisions) are Perfect (33)

- Never without second-guessing
- Never ill-informed

- Never misinformed
- Never too early or too late
- Never unfair or inconsiderate or unjust.
- His judgments (decisions) are indeed mysterious, but always show in the end that He is sovereign, righteous and good.

c. His Ways are Unfathomable

- The things that God does, the timing in which He does them, the reasons why He does them... these things are unfathomable to our finite human minds. Furthermore, they are unfathomable to our *fallen and self-centered* human minds. God's ways are not our ways (and praise His great Name for that!) Left to ourselves, our ways would doom us all – just ask Adam and Eve.

Romans 11:34-35 Quoting from OT (Isaiah, Job)

He gives some other Bible Support to his words.

Conclusion/Doxology:

Romans 11:36

- You can praise God
- You can trust God
- You can serve God

In Life and with God, **Why always comes before What**. The Bible just gave us the **Why** at the end of Romans 11. Now, in the next 2 verses, God gives us the **What**.

Romans 12:1

God is calling us to:

II. Unselfie as a Living Sacrifice

We don't know much about sacrifices in our culture. We usually think in terms of giving up what we don't need or want – but that's not sacrifice. That's not even really generosity. Sacrifice is a deep, costly decision. What we do know about sacrifices has mostly to do with Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for us.

- It was voluntary
- It was for someone else
- It was the complete abandonment of self
- It was pleasing to God the Father

His sacrifice for our sins caused **His death**. That is a deep, costly decision. He gave it all for us.

God is calling us to be a living sacrifice:

- Voluntary (present yourselves)
- For God (Jesus Gave His life for us so we would give ours for Him)
- The complete abandonment of self (sacrifice)
- It will honor God the Father (holy, acceptable to Him)

Our sacrifice for God cannot be partial. It must be total. That is a deep, costly decision.

“This is your spiritual worship.”

One translation says spiritual act of worship

Another says reasonable service

Another says rational service.

With that kind of variation, it’s a clue that this Greek phrase is a difficult one to translate.

- Even though this “Unselfie as a Living Sacrifice” makes no sense according to the mindset of the world, **it is a decision that makes sense to God and is in fact a way of worshiping Him with your daily life.**

This command in vs 1 to present your bodies as a living sacrifice needs to be understood...

- The verb implies that it is a decisive, voluntary decision
- It also implies that you don’t just think or talk – you act on it and follow through.
- It also is in the present tense – meaning that *it’s more than a one-time thing... it’s an all the time thing.*

As D.L. Moody once rightly said, “the problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar.”

So this must be a constant part of our lives before God: **That I will unselfie and be a living sacrifice.**

If we are going to sacrifice so that we can serve Him –

- a. **We must abandon sin** - confession & repentance

Serving God is more important than serving lust.

More important than serving money.

More important than feeding my addiction.

Your addiction to alcohol – on the altar.

To drugs – on the altar.

To sexual sin – on the altar.

To video games – on the altar.

To food – on the altar.

To music that dishonors God – on the altar.

To your touch screen device – on the altar.

Friends, everything this world has to offer clamors to become an idol in our lives. It all has to go on the altar.

When you’re tempted to make an idol out of these addictive things, God’s Spirit will remind you: You are a living sacrifice. These things don’t control you. In Christ, you have been set free.

Romans 12:2

If we are going to sacrifice so that we can serve Him –

- b. **Resist the world’s cookie cutter mold**

Mom’s Christmas cut-out cookies. Me helping to make them. The world wants to conform you into the image that IT says you should be. **Do not be conformed by**

the world. Just when you think you are good, the world will suddenly work you over like a piece of playdough. Always be aware of this!

Our bodies (plural) are to be a living sacrifice (singular, not plural). That shows our connectedness to each other in the Body of Christ. When we all do this, we function strong and accomplish much as one unified body of believers – completely surrendered to do His will!

God doesn't just want to change the way that you act and behave in life – He wants to change the way that you think. Now that you've put your body on the altar – Now He's ready to change the way that you think about everything. And when you do, you'll better understand the good, acceptable and perfect will of God for your life... which is to serve Him.

Invitation. Maybe there's some stuff in your life you need to lay down as a sacrifice. Maybe the world has had a greater influence on you than God. Maybe you serve the things of this world instead of serving God.

Maybe you've never turned away from sin and trusted Jesus at all.

Jesus says give it all for me. Are you willing? Will you hold anything back?
Closing. Membership video?