

/We will now begin with the fourteenth lecture on Romans. / Today we will begin with chapter 12.

/The title for this chapter is “Living Sacrifice.” / First, offer living sacrifices. / Verses 1-2. / Second, fulfill your duties / Verses 3-8. / Third, hate sin but love your brothers. / Verses 9-13. / Fourth, overcome evil with good.

/The first eleven chapters of Romans are about justification by faith. / From chapter 12 it speaks about rewards by actions.

/The first eleven chapters says that one is justified through faith. / The remaining chapters says that one receives rewards based on his or her actions.

/The first eleven chapters discuss the Christian doctrine. / The following chapters discuss the practice of these doctrines, and moral actions. / The former chapters speak of salvation, / and the latter speak of blessings.

/The former talks about faith, / and the latter talks about love. / The former is about relationship with God, / and the latter is about relationship among humans.

/Believers who are justified through faith in Jesus truly act with faith.

/Read Romans 12:1 / Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

/“Your bodies” refers to the body of the believer. / It refers to our entire bodies. / It says that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. / 1 Corinthians 6:19 / The body includes our minds as well.

/We must glorify God with all our minds and bodies. / It says that we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. / “Living sacrifice” is an offering of life. / It is one where our spirits are brought to life.

/This refers to the growth of our spirits and our devotion to God. / There are two kinds of sacrifices: a living sacrifice and a dead sacrifice. / For example, Cain offered a dead sacrifice, and Abel offered a living sacrifice.

/Abel learned from his father, Adam, how to offer sacrifices to God. / He learned from Adam that he was to bring blood when offering sacrifices to God.

/Thus, Abel offered the lamb's blood to God. / He offered his sacrifice with faith in the coming Christ. / John 4:24/ When we worship God, we must worship him in spirit and in truth. / Isaiah 1:13

/When people offered the blood of animals in the Old Testament times, they were not to do so for the sake of performing a ceremonial rite. / They were to offer sacrifices with faith in the coming Christ.

/When we worship God, we must do so in spiritual fellowship and communication with Christ. / This is living sacrifice. / God accepts such living sacrifices.

/This is the kind of sacrifice God is pleased with and considers holy. / This is spiritual worship, which God accepts. / We must worship God with such hearts.

/Now, in the period of the New Testament, we offer spiritual sacrifices. /This means that Christ is our living sacrifice. / Therefore, we must devote ourselves to Jesus and live for Jesus.

/We must live by following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. / We must devote ourselves to God with our bodies and minds.

/Verse 2. / Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

/It says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world."/ "This world" hates the

truth. / It rebels against God. / Philippians 2:15/ It is evil and sexually immoral. / Matthew 16:4

/It also is corrupted. / Acts 2:24/ We must not follow after customs and ideologies of the world. / We must not participate and be tainted by the world.

/The things of the world make us chase after greed. / 1 John 2:16-17 / Therefore, we must not conform to the patterns of this world. / We must not indulge in this world. / Galatians 6:14

/Next, it says that we must be transformed by renewing our minds. / The “mind” refers to the mind that is used by the Holy Spirit. / It is the mind that our spirits use. / When we are guided by the Holy Spirit, our minds are renewed.

/When we do so, our spirits receive new lives. / 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20/ Next, we must accept change. / This refers to a fundamental and internal change.

/We become like Christ. / Our old personalities are transformed. / Our outsides then begin to change beginning with our insides. / Our outward actions and speech become transformed as well.

/We begin to be sanctified in good ways, not in corrupted ways. / We begin to have proper relationships with God. / Then, we begin to have good relationships with other people.

/Therefore, our minds must be transformed. / Our lives must change, as well as our families. / Next, it says that God is good. / His will is good.

/We must live according to God’s pleasing will./ We must live according to his perfect will. / We must run towards perfection just as God is perfect. / Matthew 5:48

/Next, it says that we should “test and approve.” / In Greek, it is “dokimajo.” / “Dokimajo.”/ It means to test and divide. / It is like testing gold in a furnace.

/We must find God's will in this way. / We must discern what is the truth and what is not the truth. / We must let go of our thoughts and follow God's will instead. / How should we find God's will?

/We must find it in the Bible. / We must find God's will in the conscience of our faith. /We must find it through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/We must find it in God's providence and through his guidance. / We must be distinguished from this world. / Our lives must be transformed.

/We must not live like worldly people. / We must now live with faith as God's children.

/We must walk discern God's will and walk according to God's will. / We must not forget that when we say we believe in God, we must truly resemble him.

/Verse 3. / For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

/It says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought."/ Each of us has work and duties in the church. / We have callings and places that God has entrusted us with.

/Do not think beyond those. / This means, do not be arrogant. /Proverbs 18:12/ We must not think highly of ourselves. / We must throw away things that are hollow. / Matthew 20:25-28 / Psalm 131:1

/We must get rid of vanity and arrogance. / It says that we should think according to the measure of faith that God has given us. / This refers to the spiritual gifts God gave us. / The "faith God has given you" refers to the spiritual gifts God gave us.

/We must use our God-given gifts wisely. / We must use it with a humble heart. / We must think of others higher than ourselves.

/Verses 4-5. / Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

/We believers are members of one body. / 1 Corinthians 12:22-24/ The “church” is the body of Jesus. / “Jesus” is the Head of the church. / The believers are the members, or parts, of the body.

/There are many parts in a body. / Not all parts are the same. / Each part has its own function. / Every part is precious, and the body needs all parts.

/We are all precious parts. / Nothing is useless or worthless, but all parts are important. / In this way, every believer is needed in the church, which is the body of Christ. / Each part exists for the body.

/The believers exist for the church. / When believers are for the church, the church is for the believers as well. /Therefore, we as members must use each of our callings and gifts well.

/We must cherish other members in the church. / We all are brothers and sisters who have been bought by the blood of Jesus.

/Verse 6. /We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

/God gives “gifts” in his grace. / God gave each of us according to our needs. / Every single gift is precious. / Even one talent is precious and worthy.

/Therefore, we must use our gifts well for the church. / There is no need to envy other's gifts. / What is important is that we use our gifts well.

/To “prophesy” refers to God's words. / To prophesy means to speak on behalf of God. / 1 Timothy 1:18/ Revelation 1:3/ We must not add to or take away from the Bible.

/The standard revelation of the Bible has ended. / Revelation 22:18-19 / Deuteronomy 13:1-3/
The Bible is the prophecy. / Now in today's New Testament period, we testify to God's word
through the Bible and through sermons.

/Next, it says to use it in proportion to this faith./ This means to prophesy according to one's
faith. / This means to do so according to creeds and doctrines.

/This means to have faith/ and an objective standard, / and use prophecies / according to
one's faith, / in line with one's faith.

/Verse 7./ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

/We must serve well. / Those who have the gift of teaching must teach diligently. / They must
be faithful. / They must diligently teach the Bible.

/Verse 8. / if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others,
let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy,
let him do it cheerfully.

/To encourage means to comfort those in the church who are weak and sick. / Those who
encourage give strength to the tempted and help them stand up again. / They should
encourage others with gentleness. / 2 Timothy 2:25-26/ 1 Corinthians 14:3

/Today in the church, deacons and deaconesses visit believers and comfort them. / Those who
have the gift of leadership must govern diligently.

/The church must diligently discipline the believers. / They must govern over the faults of the
believers. / They must diligently discipline. / They must make sure that sins and improper
things do not enter the church.

/The church must remain pure. / Next, it says that those who show mercy should do so
cheerfully. / They must not do it with stingy hearts, / but show mercy/ with whole / and

generous hearts.

/To “show mercy” means to help the unfortunate. / It is to love others even if they are lacking.

/Verse 9. / Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

/It says that love must be sincere. / Love here is “agape.” / “Agape.”/ “Agape” is love that comes from God. / This belongs to the truth.

/This love is also present in the nature of born again spirits. / It is in accordance with the truth. / It is spiritual love. / It is true love. / 1 Peter 1:22/ We must be true to one another as believers.

/We must hate what is evil and cling to what is good. / Those who love God are bound to hate evil. / Proverbs 8:13/ Psalm 97:10/ We must abandon evil. / 1 Thessalonians 5:22

/Our purposes must be good, and our methods and ways must be good as well. / The results must be good as well. / Such things belong to the world of love and the world of truth.

/Verse 10. / Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

/It says that we must love one another in brotherly love. / Brotherly love is “Philadelphia.” / It is brotherly love. / We have been bought with the blood of Jesus.

/Therefore, all believers of Jesus are brothers and sisters. / Love comes naturally to those who are born again. / No matter how far apart we are from one another, we believers in Jesus must pray for and love one another.

/Though one may meet others for the first time, there is joy because it is a meeting of believers. / This is because they love with the love of Christ. / Here, it says, “Be devoted.”

/“Be devoted” is “Philostorgos” in Greek. / “Philostorgos.” / It is love between brothers and sisters./ It is honor for one another. / It is respect for one another. / Even if someone else does wrong, we must honor them first.

/Believers must love one another in the church. / Matthew 7:12/ Philippians 2:3/ Luke 14:10/
In this way, we believers must love and honor our brothers and sisters.

/God is pleased with this. / When siblings fight with one another, they break their parents’ hearts.

/Verse 11. / Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

/We must never be lacking in zeal, but must serve the Lord with spiritual fervor. / It is evil to be idle in our duties. / Matthew 25:26-28/ Proverbs 18:9 / We must serve the Lord with fervor.

/We must serve God with all our hearts. / God holds and uses such people. / 1 Kings 19:10/ 1 Kings 14:8/ We must love God zealously. / We must do our best in our duties.

/We must carry out the duties and callings God has entrusted us with. / The talents that God entrusted us with are precious. /Therefore, we must serve the Lord with zeal.

/“Spiritual fervor” means to have passion in our spirits. / It refers to boiling passion. / It means to passionately serve the Lord. / It means to passionately love and serve the Lord.

/When we worship, we serve the Lord. / We serve God when we pray and give offerings. / We must also obey God.

/Verse 12. / Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

/We must be joyful in hope, / patient in affliction, / and faithful in prayer. / Our hope is not in something that is seen. / 8:24/ What is not seen is eternal.

/This is hope of becoming like God. / 5:2/ We have hope. / Thus, we rejoice even in times of hardships. / Affliction creates perseverance, and perseverance creates character.

/Eventually, we will reach the glory of God. / 5:3-4 / Jesus is our hope. / He gives us everlasting heaven. / He gave us the inheritance of heaven.

/It says that we are to pray faithfully. / We must not compromise our time of prayer. / If we do not have time to pray, our faith will fall. /Mark 9:29/ We must diligently pray.

/We must pray for several hours. / Martin Luther prayed for two hours every day. / Leaders in the church must pray more than two hours a day.

/Pastors and seminary students must pray for more than two hours every day. / Then they can bear the ministry with strength from God.

/Verse 13. / Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

/It says, share with those who are in need. / It says to practice hospitality. / We must help believers who are in need. / 2 Corinthians 9:9 / In Acts chapters 4 and 5, the early church helped people in need.

/We must have compassion on those who are in need. / We must help them. / Next, it says to practice hospitality. / In the early church, there were people who were chased out because of their faith.

/They were persecuted and dismissed from work because of their faith. / They were disowned by their families because of their faith. / We must accept these people.

/We must show practice hospitality to these people. / Matthew 10:41-42/ Matthew 25:33-45/ Hebrews 13:2 / Helping a believer of Jesus is the same as helping Jesus.

/Verse 14. / Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

/We must bless those who persecute us. / Then we can be God's sons. / Matthew 5:44-45/
Stephen forgave those who were stoning him. / He loved them.

/When we fail to love our enemies, our communication with God is cut. / If we fail to love
our enemies, we begin to fall into spiritual darkness. / We must forgive and love our enemies
as Jesus did.

/This is what God is pleased with and this is the way to overcome our enemies. / We must
bless those who persecute us. / We must pray for those who cause us distress.

/Verse 15. / Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

/We must rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn. / We must
rejoice together. / Believers have become one by the blood of Christ.

/We must consider other's hardships as our own. / Hebrews 4:15/ When others rejoice, we
must rejoice together. / We must participate in other's hardships.

/All other parts of the body become sick when one part of the body hurts. / When a tooth
aches, other parts begin to ache as well. / In the same way, we should participate in other's
hardships.

/When believers do well, we should compliment them. / For example, when we share in
sufferings, sufferings lessen, / and when we share in joy, joy increases. / When we share in
sufferings, sufferings lessen. / When we share in our joy, joy increases.

/Verse 16. / Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate
with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

/We must be in harmony with one another and be humble. / We must not be arrogant. / We

must not be proud. / God destroys the arrogant. / God gives grace to the humble.

/Jesus is meek and humble. / Jesus' heart is a serving heart. / Philippians 2:5-8 / Thus, we must serve one another. / Those who serves are the greatest in heaven.

/Jesus said He came to serve. / Jesus' heart was humble. / Being humble is the way to know more about Jesus. /Matthew 11:29/ Trying to be higher than others is the test of Satan. / Matthew 4:8-9. / Judas 1:6

/Therefore, we must always have humble hearts. / Also, it says that we must not be conceited. / Matthew 11:25 / 1 Corinthians 3:19-20/ 1 Corinthians 8:2/ God blesses those who are like little children.

/Those who think they are wise are arrogant people. / We humans actually do not know much.

/Therefore, we must humbly receive God's wisdom. / We must pray and lean more on God. / We must work with the wisdom and power of God.

/Verse 17. / Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

/It says, we must not repay anyone evil for evil. / Instead, we must do what is good. / If we repay evil for evil, we will become more evil. / Evil increases. / Then we fall from our faith.

/God will judge when sin increases. / Psalm 37:27/ 1 Peter 3:9 / David loved Saul. / David did not kill Saul even when Saul tried to kill him. / David won with love.

/We must do what is right in the eyes of everybody. / 1 Peter 2:12/ We must love our enemies.

/We must do good no matter what. / When we hate others, we become slaves to the devil. /

God is pleased when we love.

/Verse 18. / If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

/We must live at peace with everyone if it is possible. / God's kingdom is the kingdom of peace. / God's children bring peace. / Matthew 5:9 / Anyone who does not live in harmony with others and fights is a child of God.

/We believers must be at peace with everyone if it is possible. / Hebrews 12:14/ Ephesians 4:3/ We must be at peace even with our enemies. / We must love our enemies and share the gospel with them.

/That is how we can advance the kingdom of God. / There may be times when our enemies might not respond to our efforts to maintain peace. / We may keep on trying, but others may continue to dismiss our attempts of peace.

/In such cases, because we are trying to be at peace, we are not held accountable. / In addition, there may be times when we are ostracized by others because of issues regarding the truth. / It is wrong to compromise the truth for peace.

/We must not compromise the truth. /We must walk in the truth and try to maintain peace with others. / We must also pray for others.

/Verse 19. / Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

/It says, "my friends."/ This word is "Agapetos" in Greek. / "Agapetos."/ The word "Agapetos" means, beloved. / We have been loved first by God.

/We have received infinite love from God. / Therefore, we must love God. / We must love our neighbors. / Because we received the love of God, we must love even our enemies.

/Without God's love, we would have already perished because of our sins. / We have received the cancellation of ten thousand talents.

/When we do not cancel the debt of a hundred denarii of our brothers, God rebukes us. / We must never get revenge on our enemies. / If we do so, we will grow distant from God.

/God will get revenge for us. / God judges good and evil. / We only need to love unconditionally. / We must do good and be in harmony with others. / 1 Peter 2:23/ Leviticus 19:18/ James 4:11-12/ Genesis 50:19

/The Old Testament says that we must not get revenge. / Joseph forgave his brothers. / Revenge is in God's hands. / Deuteronomy 32:35

/God is righteous. / He judges good and evil. / He punishes wickedness.

/Verses 20-21. / On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

/It says that if our enemy is hungry, we must feed him, / and if he is thirsty, we must give him something to drink. / Then "you will heap burning coals on his head." / Proverbs 25:21-22/ This means that our enemies will melt in fire, and we will become friends.

/We must love and forgive our enemies. / We must love them zealously. / Then they will repent and return to God. / The "coals" refer to our good acts.

/When we love and do good to our enemies, they will repent and return. / 2 Kings 6:14-23. / We were all sinners. / We were once enemies of God. / 5:8.

/Christ died for us who were enemies. / The Lord died for us sinners. / Then He lived again. / Christ loved us.

/The Lord saved us. / Thus, we must love our enemies as Jesus did. / We must overcome evil with good. / David defeated Saul. / He won by doing good.

/David had opportunities to kill Saul. /However, David did not kill Saul with his hands. / Instead, he left it to God. / He kept his faith. / Latter half of 1 Peter 2:22 / 1 Peter 2:23.

/We too must walk the path that Jesus walked. / Chapter 12 tells us, “Love your neighbors.”

/With this, we will conclude the fourteenth lecture on Romans./ Thank you.