

Getting Started:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

1. Since becoming a Christian, in what ways have your beliefs and behaviors changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What would you say are the most important ways in which your patterns of thought have changed in the last five years? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In verse 1, the English Standard Version uses the phrase "spiritual worship." How does the version you're reading translate this phrase? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In verse 1, what three words does Paul use to describe the type of sacrifice that is to be offered? 1) living 2) holy 3) acceptable
5. In verse 2, Paul describes God's will with three words. What are they?  
1) good 2) acceptable 3) perfect
6. We need to turn learning into living.
7. theology → doxology → lifeology

Context is Critical:

Therefore

Four Key "therefore" passages:

1. Romans 3:20 "therefore of condemnation"
2. Romans 5:1 "therefore of justification"
3. Romans 8:1 "therefore of assurance"
4. Romans 12:1 "therefore of dedication"

To the Point:

## 1. THE PLEA

A. "Therefore" is a pivotal word.

B. This plea is motivated by the mercies of God. List some of them from the book of Romans: \_\_\_\_\_

C. The word "appeal" literally means to to beg, plead, or implore.

## 2. THE PRESENTATION



A. What are we to offer to God as a sacrifice? our bodies

B. What does this offering become? living sacrifice

C. What is worship? See Psalm 29:1-2; Revelation 4:6-11; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:31

D. "Great Christians demonstrate great love by making great sacrifices." ~ Chip Ingram

E. Two classes of sacrifices: 1) guilt 2) thanksgiving

Which one are we to offer to God? thanksgiving Why? Only Jesus could offer a sacrifice of guilt/atonement

## 3. THE PLEASING

A. Two commands: negative conformed positive transformed

B. "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." ~ J.B. Philips

C. How are we transformed? by renewing our minds

D. When we are transformed we will know what? the will of God

Turning Learning into Living (Be specific and personal):

1. In what ways have you been molded by the world? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what ways do you need to transform your life? \_\_\_\_\_