

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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Transforming Your Body

How To Present Your Body As a Living Sacrifice

Before we trusted Christ, we used our body for sinful pleasures and purposes, but now that we belong to Him, we want to use our body for His glory. The Christian’s body is God’s temple (1 Cor. 6:19–20) because the Spirit of God dwells within him (Rom. 8:9). It is our privilege to glorify Christ in our body and magnify Christ in our body (Phil. 1:20–21).

Just as Jesus Christ had to take on Himself a body in order to accomplish God’s will on earth, so we must yield our bodies to Christ that He might continue God’s work through us. We must yield the members of the body as “instruments of righteousness” (Rom. 6:13) for the Holy Spirit to use in the doing of God’s work. The Old Testament sacrifices were dead sacrifices, but we are to be living sacrifices.

There are two “living sacrifices” in the Bible and they help us understand what this really means. The first is Isaac (Gen. 22); the second is our Lord Jesus Christ. Isaac willingly put himself on the altar and would have died in obedience to God’s will, but the Lord sent a ram to take his place. Isaac “died” just the same—he died to self and willingly yielded himself to the will of God.

When he got off that altar, Isaac was a “living sacrifice” to the glory of God. Of course, our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect illustration of a “living sacrifice,” because He actually died as a sacrifice, in obedience to His Father’s will. But He arose again. And today He is in heaven as a “living sacrifice,” bearing in His body the wounds of Calvary. He is our High Priest (Heb. 4:14–16) and our Advocate (1 John 2:1) before the throne of God.

The verb “present” in this verse means “present once and for all.” It commands a definite commitment of the body to the Lord, just as a bride and groom in their wedding service commit themselves to each other. It is this once-for-all commitment that determines what they do with their bodies. Paul gives us two reasons for this commitment: (1) it is the right response to all that God has done for us—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God”; and (2) this commitment is “our reasonable service” or “our spiritual worship.” This means that every day is a worship experience when your body is yielded to the Lord.

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:1

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 12

Introduction

1. Did you make any New Year Resolutions this year? If so, what are they?
2. Our Transformed series will focus on Romans 12. Which verse in Romans 12 will be most helpful to you in 2018?

Tuesday: Psalm 100; Psalm 139:13-18; Jeremiah 1:4-5

God Made My Body

3. How often do you think about God as the creator of your body?
4. How would you describe the Psalmist's response to the knowledge that God made him?

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Isaiah 53:4-5

Jesus Paid A Price For Me

5. Since Jesus paid a price for us how should we treat our bodies?
6. What should your response be to God in light of what Jesus did for you?

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 6:16; Romans 8:9-11

God's Spirit Lives In Me

7. What does it mean to be the temple of the living God?
8. If the Spirit of God lives inside of you how does that impact the way you live your life?

Friday: Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

God Expects Me To Take Care of My Body

9. If God made your body, purchased you, and lives inside of you, what then is your responsibility for your body?
10. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
11. 2018 can be a fresh start. How can you honor God with your body this year?