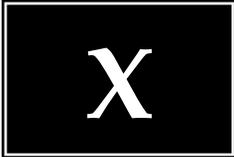


The Letter of St. Paul to the **ROMANS**



X

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Psalm 116**. God's mercy shown to us moves us to thank and praise him with all our being.

INTRODUCTION

We've seen and experienced God's love in Christ. Our sins have been forgiven, we have been set free from the sentence of condemnation, and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. In the mystery of election, we have been predestined to eternal glory!

How will we respond to all of God's goodness? We will offer a sacrifice of praise and thanks. We won't bring burnt offerings or tender the least or the leftovers. God's mercy invites more than a meager, halfhearted response. It calls for the total sacrifice of self, our bodies and our entire existence surrendered to God as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing in his sight.

LIVING SACRIFICES

Read Romans 12:1-8.

Describe how a Christian surrenders his or her entire existence to the Lord. Give specific and practical examples.

Give examples of how you as a Christian are challenged not to conform to the world. Describe how your thinking is transformed.

How might you find yourself tempted to think highly of yourself and to look down on others?

Why do we have no reason for pride when it comes to our talents?

LIVES OF LOVE

Read Romans 12:9-21.

List at least six ways in which Christians exemplify love in action:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Do you ever find yourself wanting revenge? For what?

Give at least three reasons why Christians want to let things go and not seek revenge:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SUBMISSION

Read Romans 13:1-7.

Where does authority come from?

What purpose does the government serve?

What does verse 4 say about the government's authority to execute capital punishment?

Read Romans 13:8-14

Explain how love is the fulfillment of the law.

Verses 11-14 indicate that the clock is ticking down to the final day of reckoning. Are you looking forward to Judgment Day? Explain your answer.

What's the difference between light and darkness? How will a believer's attitude show that he or she is a child of the light?

For reflection: How does Jesus' sacrifice for you motivate you to live for him?

VERSES TO REMEMBER

Romans 12:1 *Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.*

Romans 13:10b *Love is the fulfillment of the law.*

For next time read Romans 12 through 16.