



[Romans 12:1-2](#)

(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.*

(2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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Notice that the days of sacrifice are not over. We are to present our bodies *a living sacrifice*. Sacrificing has been transferred from the physical slaughtering of animals to *the sacrifice of the self*, from the slaying of a dumb and uncomprehending beast to the intelligent and deliberate choice of an understanding human, made in the image of God.

The principles of the sacrifices given in Leviticus 1-5 and so forth still apply to us under the New Covenant *in their spirit*—the stretching out of principles to their spiritual intent. It is these principles that Paul is drawing on for this command. We are to present *our lives* as a sacrifice to God.

Remember, our [salvation](#) rests on the human sacrifice of [Jesus Christ](#) of Nazareth. First, He gave up His glory to become a man. Second, He sacrificed His life; for 33 ½ years, He laid it down as an offering to [God](#), and as an example to us of perfect obedience. Finally, He gave up His human life as a sacrifice on the stake.

Sacrifice is a *New Testament* [doctrine](#)! It is on such a higher plane that there is no comparison with the sacrificing done in the Old Testament. Now we have to be sacrificed and much in the same way, in principle, that Christ was. Many individual verses or paragraphs in the Bible explain that such things as [prayer](#), thanksgiving, [faith](#), and [repentance](#) are Christian sacrifices.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Romans 12:1-2 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

To learn more, see:

[The Covenants, Grace, and Law \(Part 19\)](#)



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