

Date: 14 July 2019

Speaker: Brother Samuel Joseph

**Topic: A Living Sacrifice**

Scripture text: Romans 12:1-2

1. The sacrifices of the Old Testament are done away with but we are called to be living sacrifices for God. Apostle Paul gave the context from chapters 1 to 11, where the gospel of Jesus Christ is the foundation of this call to sacrifice. The gospel is not just about receiving but giving.

2. Why do we sacrifice? The reason is the mercies of God. We have an obligation because God is our Creator but that is not the focus. We have a fear of judgment because God is the Judge but that is also not the focus. We are called to willingly sacrifice to God chiefly because He is our Redeemer. Having known the mercies of God, we will surely want to surrender our all to Him. To "present" has the idea of giving without reluctance but willingly and entirely. This should be our motivation.

3. What to sacrifice? We are to give our bodies as a living sacrifice, which means it is a life of sacrifice. We belong to God now and our actions must be for God. We must be holy and pure. A blemished sacrifice is an abomination to God (Deut 17:1). So we must not give God the leftovers of our life. It is a great honour and privilege to be able to sacrifice to God. This ability and acceptance is only possible in Christ. It is reasonable. Anything else is not accepted because it is not what God has required.

4. How to sacrifice? Firstly, do not be conformed to this world. The world is not neutral but under Satan's control. Once we give in, we end up organising our lives according to the world's principles instead of God's Word. Secondly, be transformed in our minds. To discern God's will, we must renew our minds. We need to guard our minds from worldly influence and seek after God's will, which is good, acceptable and perfect. Day by day, we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice by obeying and doing God's will.