



# Romans

**Right With God**

# Give It To God

**Romans 12:1-8**

**Lesson Thirty-Nine**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Page 2 of 4

### Give It To God

The verses we study today begin a section of the letter to the Romans about giving ourselves completely to God. This is practical advice based on all that we have studied up to this point. Read Romans 12:1-8. Paul begins with an humble plea. He says “I urge you...” He could command them...after all he is an apostle. Instead, he pleads with them.

He is pleading with them based on God’s mercy. Notice that Paul doesn’t say present your *spirit* to God. He says present your *body*. Christians believe that all of a person belongs to God, and should be dedicated to Him.\* Paul saw the body as that which carried out the desires of the spirit. In this case, he is talking about those who are redeemed, those who have asked Jesus to be the Lord of their lives, whose spirit should be urging them to live like Jesus.

“Living sacrifices” means that we *live* the very best we can. “Holy” in this case means different from all those who are not living for God. Our everyday lives should be “pleasing to God.” We are not *dying* as sacrifices, we are *living* and giving ourselves completely to God.

“Spiritual worship” means that which comes from the inside, we are committed completely to God, we praise and obey Him. However, to get the full idea we might use the words of the King James Version of Scripture what says “reasonable service.” God doesn’t ask us to do unreasonable things, things that are beyond our ability, but He does ask us to serve. That is more than what most people would call worship. In reality, both service and worship mean doing something about our relationship with God, and that involves all of us, even our bodies.

The second verse tells us that we will never be able to experience all that God wants us to be and “test drive” God’s will if we continue to be just like everyone else. And we are assured that God’s will for us is not only good, it will be pleasing and it will be complete. We won’t need anything else.

Next we come to the practical way that we can work all this out. Paul speaks as one who has received grace to those who are also children of grace. He is specific in pointing out that his message is for each one of them. There seem to be two reasons for specifying each one. He said that everyone has gifts (verse six). He also said there was a danger in letting that go to your head and becoming full of pride. His advice to deal with this was “sober judgment.” Every Christian should be very serious...sober...about what God has done for you and what God can do through you. It is the most serious thing you can think about.

Paul goes on to use one of his favorite pictures, that of a body...all Christians...and the body

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Page 3 of 4

parts. He said that we belong to one another and depend on each other, like arms belongs to legs. Each of these has a different job, but the body needs both of them to get the job done.

And in verses six through eight, we find specific tasks to which God calls us. He said if you have the gift of prophesy, you should depend entirely on God's Spirit. That's faith. If you have the gift of serving, show God's love through helping others. If you have the gift of teaching, explain the Scriptures and what they mean. If you have the gift of exhortation, or encouragement, you should be encouraging folks toward the joy of Christian living. If you have the gift of giving, or sharing, do it with joy and humility. If you have the gift of leadership, or standing before the congregation, don't do it to enjoy the office, do it as a servant and, as one translation says, "don't get bossy." Finally, if you have the gift of mercy, or helping those who are hurting, be cheerful when you do it, and remember it is always based on God's love and never on your superiority. Since the gifts are God's, *Give it to God!*

**Scripture Memory: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." Romans 12:1**

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal:* To guide students to see God's free salvation and praise Him for it.**

1. Paul is a model for all Christian teachers. Someone has said, "Moses commands; the apostle exhorts." Teachers should be constantly aware that the authority of our religion is in God. We are servants passing along His words. Not once in the writings of Paul do we find him "commanding" his converts. He is our model who said, "Not that we have dominion over your faith; but are helpers in your joy." II Corinthians 1:24. The attitude of Christian teachers and preachers, according to Griffith Thomas, should be "beseeching, pleading and exhorting."

2. In case you do not have it, the NIV translation of verse two reads, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." This is a superior translation.

3. *The Message* translation, verses one and two, "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-informed maturity in you."

4. Everett Harrison said, related to verse two, "The believer has been delivered from this present evil age (Galatians 1:4), which has Satan for its god (II Corinthians 4:4). He lives by the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5), but his heavenly calling includes residence in this world, among sinful men, where he is to show forth the praises of Him who called him out of darkness into God's marvelous light. He is in the world for witness, but not for conformity to that which is a passing phenomenon (I Corinthians 7:31)

5. Every time Paul speaks of gifts of service, he insists they are of divine grace: I Cor. 12:6; Eph. 4:7 also I Peter 4:10

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Page 4 of 4

### *Student Worksheet*

## Give It To God

=Paul doesn't say present your *spirit* to \_\_\_\_\_. He says present your *body*. Christians believe that all of a person belongs to \_\_\_\_\_, and should be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

=Our everyday lives should be "\_\_\_\_\_ to God." We are not *dying* as \_\_\_\_\_, we are *living* and \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves completely to \_\_\_\_\_.

=God doesn't ask us to do unreasonable things, things that are \_\_\_\_\_ our ability, but He does ask us to \_\_\_\_\_.

=The second verse tells us that we will never be able to experience all that \_\_\_\_\_ wants us to be and "test drive" God's \_\_\_\_\_ if we continue to be just like everyone else.\

=He said that everyone has \_\_\_\_\_ (verse six). He also said there was a \_\_\_\_\_ in letting that go to your head and becoming full of \_\_\_\_\_.

=Since the \_\_\_\_\_ are God's, *Give it to \_\_\_\_\_!*

**Scripture Memory: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship."  
Romans 12:1**

#### **A Roman Road to Salvation:**

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

**Romans 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

**Romans 6:23b** "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 10** "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

**Romans 10:13** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

**Romans 12:1, 2** "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.