

The Culture of “Worshipful Work”

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, *[Paul wants us to take this seriously!]*

brothers and sisters, *[Not just any mixed bunch; we’re family.]*

in view of God’s mercy¹, *[In light of the loving kindness God has shown, in dealing with each of us].*

to offer your bodies² *[Not just our flesh; our whole selves, our beings, our human identities]*

as a living sacrifice³, *[The giving of life, life’s blood, life’s work]*

holy and pleasing to God— *[Holy means set apart, special; pleasing reminds us of the pleasing smell of the sacrifice at the altar.]*

this is your spiritual⁴ act of worship. *[Offering ourselves and our work.]*

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, *[We are called to be different in Christ, and not to do our work like the world.]*

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. *[Let Christ teach us how to think differently, in new life in Him.]*

Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— *[The spiritual gift of discernment; of seeing God’s will in our work.]*

his good, pleasing and perfect will. *[Good for us, good for the Church, pleasing to God.]*

¹ Mercy: When God does not give us that which we deserve. (Buchanan’s definition)

² Note: Word used for “bodies” better translated as “our whole selves,” or “whole bodies.” The word used by Jesus, when he said, “This is my *body*, broken for you.”

³ Note the singular sacrifice, out of the plural bodies. Sacrifice: The giving of life, to satisfy God’s righteousness.

⁴ Or “reasonable” sacrifice.

