



The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

TRANSFORMATION INTO LIVING SACRIFICE

Romans 12:1-8

What is our sacrifice for the sake of Christ?

When I read this passage, I'm reminded of a childhood prayer meeting hymnal, "All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give, I will ever trust and love Him, In His presence daily live." This 19th century hymnal was written by Judson VanDeVenter while he was struggling with whether he should pursue his calling for Christ's ministry. In Romans 12, Paul urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. This makes me think about sacrifices. What have we sacrificed in life for our Christ? I know my parents have sacrificed many things for my well being. When I was younger I had asthma and would be admitted to the hospital with ailments from my asthma. My father would pace the hallway carrying me to soothe me through my illness. My mother, seeing my suffering, offered to pray and fast on Sunday mornings for my health. These are some of the many sacrifices my parents made for me. But I wonder as Christians what are we sacrificing for our Christ?

How is our commitment to Christ?

Paul also urges us to not conform to society but to be transformed. Being a Christian means having a personal relationship with Jesus and trusting His will. It means denying our will and choosing His instead. In today's busy lifestyle of work, school, and families do we let God's will prevail? How much time do we set apart to meditate on the sacrifices that our Savior made for us? After all, our God sacrificed his only begotten Son, and Christ sacrificed his whole body to breathe new life into our souls. Let us surrender our whole self to God to have Him lead us all day, everyday.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that as we are constantly reminded of your power and love for us, that we in return constantly remember to offer our bodies and souls as living sacrifices every day of our life.

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"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. 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." Romans 12: 1-2)