

Jesus Paid It All! All To Him I Owe

Romans 12:1-2

I. God's Call Is To Consecration or Complete Commitment. 12:1

1. It is spiritual.
2. It is volitional.
3. It is total.
4. It is sacrificial.
5. It is moral.
6. It is worshipful.

II. God's Call Involves Transformation or Complete Change. 12:2

1. You must reject the pressure to conform outwardly.
2. You must accept the power which changes inwardly.

III. God's Call Includes Satisfaction or Complete Contentment. 12:2

1. God's will is proven.
2. God's will is pleasing.
3. God's will is perfect.

Introduction:

- 1) “When God doesn’t want me to do something, I definitely know it. When He wants me to do something, even if it means going outside my comfort zone, I know that too. I feel pushed in the direction I need to go . . . I will die for my God. I will die for my faith. It’s the least I can do for Christ dying for me.” (*She Said Yes*)
- 2) These are the words of Cassie Bernall, one of the Columbine High School martyrs who stepped into eternity on April 20, 1999. As she suddenly, without a moments notice stood before her Lord, I can easily imagine her personalizing the words of that great hymn, “Jesus Paid It All.” It is indeed easy for me to here her say:
 - “For nothing good have I, whereby thy grace to claim. I’ll wash my garments white, in the blood of Calvary’s lamb.
 - And now, before your throne, I stand in You complete. Jesus, you died my soul to save, my lips will forever repeat.”
- 3) Jesus did pay it all and all to Him I owe, you owe, we all owe. “Having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time” (Hebrews 10:12), He paid a debt He did not owe because I owed a debt I could not pay. Now, in grateful and glad response to what He has done for me, I give my life, my all, in service to Him.

Transition:

In Romans 12:1-2 Paul addresses our proper response to what Jesus has done for us. This response is utterly unique, a life live under His Lordship, a life that can, and will, make an eternal difference. In a *Time* magazine article entitled “Faith and Frat Boys,” (May 9, 2005), author Jeff Chu said young Christians on secular college campuses draw inspiration from this text. I believe they are looking in a good place, and so let us look and draw inspiration as well and see what words of challenge and strength God places before us.

I. God’s Call Is To Consecration or Complete Commitment. 12:1

1) It is spiritual.

“*beseech*” – urge (gr. *parakalo*) to encourage, earnestly ask, to put your arm around as you come alongside. “*mercies of God*” – looks back to Romans 1:18 – 11:36 and the glorious salvation God has provided in Jesus Christ.

1:18-3:20 demonstrates the depravity and universality of human sinfulness (sin).

3:21-5:21 explores the glory of our redemption won by Christ and appropriated by faith (salvation).

6:1-8:39 examines God’s work of sanctification which culminates in our conformity to Christlikeness (sanctification).

9:1-11:36 instructs us concerning God’s sovereignty, man’s responsibility and God’s covenant faithfulness to Israel (sovereignty).

**God’s call is spiritual, it is based upon what He has done for us through His Son, the Lord Jesus.

2) It is volitional.*“You present”*

Something you must do.

Something only you can do.

Something I cannot do for you.

Something you cannot do for me.

A technical term for presenting a sacrifice – meaning to “place aside.”

This decision is yours.

This decision is one that only you can make.

God does not coerce – He calls.

He does not pressure – He pleads.

3) It is total.*“Your bodies”* (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19)Means all of you – inside and out; mind, will, emotions; body, soul and spirit. It is all of you all of the time.

Partial obedience is total disobedience.

Partial faithfulness is complete unfaithfulness.

Illustration: Pledging 95% faithfulness in marriage!Disobedience – Moses in Numbers 20 striking the stone in the wilderness – it cost him the promised land.Saul in 1 Samuel 15 and his battle with Agag and the Amalekites – it cost him his position in leadership.****They missed God’s best because they gave God less than their best.**4) It is sacrificial.*“Living sacrifice”* is an oxymoron

Living – alive sacrifice – dead

*We are to be alive to some things but dead to others.

Alive – to the Savior and His will for us whatever it is, wherever it leads.Dead – to self, my wants, my desires, my plans.

*A sacrifice always involves cost.

*We will make the sacrifice when we believe the cost is worth the sacrifice.

5) It is moral.*“Holy, acceptable to God”*

There is a rightness to this commitment.

There is a beauty to this commitment.

Acceptable could be translated “well pleasing” – this commitment honors God and it is appropriate to who He is and what He has done. Anything less would be immoral, unholy and unacceptable.6) It is worshipful.

“*Reasonable service*”

Reasonable – rational, intelligent – intelligent worship

Worshipful service is the emphasis.

Your heart, you mind, your will come together as one and say “Yes, this is what my God deserves and, yes, I will give it to Him.”

Transition:

God’s call is to consecration or complete commitment.

II. God’s Call Involves Transformation or Complete Change. 12:2

In verse 2, Paul begins with a negative and then moves to a positive. He says first:

1) You must reject the pressure to conform outwardly.

a. “*conformed*” is *suschematizomai*.

We get our word “scheme” or schema, from it. It means to form or mold something. It has the idea of squeezing or shaping by outward, external pressure. It is a present passive imperative. God is commanding us not to be continually shaped or molded by pressures and influences which come upon us. [*Me* with the imperative may be addressing an action in progress. “Stop being conformed.”]

b. We are not to be conformed to this world. Actually the word translated “world” is literally “age.” Do not allow yourself to be molded and shaped after the pattern of this age.

c. This is an age that believes in itself. This is an age that is perfectly content to take a cafeteria approach to religion, even to the Christian faith, taking what it wants and leaving the rest.

d. Marvin Olasky, a professor at the University of Texas, notes how pervasive this way of thinking is among Christian young persons he has taught. In a May 9, 1998 editorial in *World* magazine, he quotes various students who profess at least some type of commitment to Christ. The results can only be described as tragic.

- “I believe in Jesus, but I do not believe the Bible is the Word of God. It is the word of man: imperfect, judgmental and overzealous.”

- “Sometimes my personal beliefs contradict those taught by the church. I make my decisions based on what I feel is right.”

- “The bottom line is I believe in me.”

- “My governing belief is the only person you can really trust in life is yourself.”

e. Such thinking results from being conformed to the age of this world and

the danger of being led astray is far more dangerous than most of us imagine.

Transition:

- 2) You must accept the power which changes inward.
- a. “*be transformed*” is also a present, passive, imperative and translates the Greek word *metamorphoo*. We get our English word “metamorphosis” from it. It means to radically change, to alter by an inward process, to change into another form. The word is used four times in the New Testament, including Matthew 17:2 in reference to the transfiguration of our Lord.
 - b. This transformation is accomplished in a very specific way: by the renewing – literally, making new again of the mind.
 - c. The greatest battles are not fought out in the world but here in the mind. Win the battles of the mind and you win everywhere. Lose the battle of the mind and you lose everywhere.
Proverbs 23:7 reminds us, “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”
Philippians 2:5 says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
 - d. In verse 1, God asks for your body: complete commitment.
In verse 2, God asks for your mind: complete change.

Now Paul addresses a third and final aspect of God’s call.

III. God’s Call Involves Satisfaction or Complete Contentment. 12:2

- A. People are always interested in how do we know God’s will? Is there a formula? Is there a secret? What is the key?
- B. In Romans 12, Paul teaches us that when we accept God’s call to complete commitment, and when we choose to live under the lordship of Jesus Christ, in the process we come to know the will of God for our lives.

When we give ourselves to God in this manner, what do we discover concerning His will?

1. God’s will is proven.
“*Prove*” carries the idea “to prove by testing” and “to approve after testing.”
By personal experience I come to know and approve the will of God for my life.
2. God’s will is pleasing.
It is “*good*” (for us).
It is “*good*” (if it comes from God).

“*Acceptable*” same word as in verse 1 (well-pleasing).

“*Acceptable*” again because its source is God.

God is directing, God is guiding, God is orchestrating the events of my life according to His good and acceptable and perfect will.

3. God's will is perfect.

- a. "*Perfect*" (*teleion*) is actually the last word of verse 2 in the Greek text. Interesting, the verse literally reads, "to prove to you what the will of God, the good and acceptable and perfect." Because God's will for my life starts with God and not me, I can rest in the assurance it is divinely planned and will be divinely accomplished.
- b. I had a personal experience in the summer of 1985, cleaning out a dumpster in McKinney, Texas. I experience great confusion and unhappiness with God. "What if it is My will for you to be in the dumpster? God said. Do you think I was caught by surprise?"

1992-Dean of Students/Professor of Theology at SEBTS
 1995-Speaking at the SBC Pastors' Conference in Atlanta
 1996-Academic V.P./Dean, School of Theology, SBTS
 2004 President, SEBTS

I was the same Danny Akin in 1983 and 1992, in 1995 and 1996. I am the same Danny Akin today.

Conclusion:

Jim Elliot, missionary to the Auca Indians was martyred by the people he loved and came to evangelize on January 8, 1956. *Life* magazine featured a 10 page article on his and the other missionaries death. Reflecting on what it means to serve the One who paid it all, Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. You see, "you can trust His heart even when you cannot trace His hand. Graduates of 2005 and loyal soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, I see no fools before me today. You have wisely turned your back and what you cannot keep, the things of this world, to gain that which you cannot lose, the joys of salvation and the glories of heaven. Now, what about the rest of you?