

Introduction

When Karen and I decided to move back to Georgia, we found several lots that were close together that would work for those of us who were moving. After picking out our lot, I made a preliminary site plan, which included where I would put the house, fruit and nut orchard, vineyard, and garden. I took soil samples at various places on the lot, and tested it to see what the pH was. After the garden area was designated, we began the site preparation. The soil has a high content of clay and rocks. It was so hard last fall that Chad and I could not get a shovel into the ground. We bought a lot of peat moss and manure to mix in with the clay. We also bought a tiller to break up the hard ground and mix the peat moss and manure with it. If I had left the soil the way it was, we would not have been able to grow very much. It was not very usable the way it was, so it needed to be prepared. The next step will be to put in orchard, vineyard, and garden and see if we can grow things. It will be the proving of our garden plans.

This morning, we are not talking about gardens, but our lives. God has a plan for each of us. He has uniquely created us with gifts, abilities, and life experiences. He created us with a purpose in mind, to worship Him and give Him honor and glory. In Revelation 4:9-11, we gain some insight about this. The living creatures are in heaven giving glory and honor and thanks to God, who is sitting on the throne. The twenty-four elders fall down before Him and worship Him forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne of God and say, Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created. Notice that we have been created to worship Him and give Him glory and honor forever. This was God's plan for all creation.

(Rev 4:9-11) "And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, {10} the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship (proskuneo) Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, {11} "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

There are different forms of worship, and there are different Hebrew and Greek words used to differentiate these forms of worship. Some words mean to prostrate ourselves. Others mean to bless. In the New Testament, one of the most common words used, and is in this verse in Revelation 4:10, is proskuneo (Strong's G4352), which means to kiss the hand, like a dog licking his master's hand. The word for worship in our passage is latreia (Strong's G2999), which comes from the word, latris, which means a hired servant. It means divine service, ministration, or worship. The worship in our passage is the service that we do unto the Lord. Romans 12 is about worshiping the Lord using our gifts and abilities that God gave us, and living holy lives for Him. Just as there were some steps to preparing for a garden, there are some steps involved in preparing us for our spiritual service of worship. We dedicated an area for our garden. In our lives, we have to dedicate our lives to worshiping God. Paul urges us to present our lives as living and holy sacrifices. Second, our hearts and minds need to be prepared. Paul tells us not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Just as the rocky, hard clay soil was not very usable, our worldly minds are not very usable; they must be transformed so that we become usable. Finally, there is the proving of God's will in our lives. At our new home, Karen and I hope our proof will be a productive garden. In our lives, we desire to prove God's will in our lives. This morning, we are going to talk about presenting our lives, preparing our hearts, and proving God's will.

Our Spiritual Service of Worship

1. Presenting Our Lives
2. Preparing Our Minds
3. Proving God's Will

(Rom 12:1-2) "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

1. Presenting Our Lives

Paul begins by urging us therefore, which ties this passage to the previous passage. Paul has just stated how the depth of God's riches of wisdom and knowledge. He has stated that there is no counsel against Him, and that His ways are unfathomable. He ended by saying that all things have come from Him, through Him, and are for Him. There should be an attitude of gratitude towards God, and our worship comes out of thanksgiving and praise.

(Rom 11:33-36) "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! {34} For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? {35} Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? {36} For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen. {12:1} Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship."

Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice to God. He says this is acceptable to God. This leads me to think that there are possibly some offerings that we give to God that are not acceptable. Malachi gives us some further indications of offerings that were not acceptable. In Genesis 4:1-5, when Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, the Lord delighted in Abel's offering, but He had no regard for Cain's offering. What was the difference? Abel brought in the fat portion. In other words, he gave the very best of his flocks. He gave the choicest animals he had. The inference that we have is that Cain did not give the very best of what he had. He gave, but he did not give his best. The one offering was acceptable; the other offering was not acceptable.

(Gen 4:3-5) "So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. {4} Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; {5} but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell."

When we present our lives to God as an offering, it is an acceptable offering to God. That is good to know, because I would hate to lay my life down as an offering only to find out that it was not an acceptable offering to the Lord. The first step in proving God's will for our lives is to consecrate it. We need to present our lives as a living and holy sacrifice to God. When Karen and I pray together every morning, we take time to pray this verse and present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices to the Lord. Everything that we do each day is a part of that living and holy sacrifice. Our service to Him and to others is a living and holy sacrifice.

Our work is an offering to God. In Colossians 3:23-24, Paul wrote, “*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as unto the Lord rather than men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*” Our work is done unto the Lord and is a holy and living sacrifice.

In Hebrews 13:15-16, we are commanded to continually offer up sacrifices of praise, sacrifices of thanksgiving, sacrifices of doing good and sacrifices of sharing. As we go through our daily activities, we are to make these sacrifices.

(Heb 13:15-16) "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. {16} And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

In Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8, and 8:3-4, our prayers are like the incense that was continually burning in the temple; they are counted as sacrifices and offerings, and these sacrifices to God are pleasing. Intercession is not just for those who feel they are called to the ministry of intercession; it is part of our priestly responsibility. As priests, we are called to a life of prayer and intercession.

(Ps 141:2) "May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering."

(Rev 5:8) "And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

(Rev 8:3-4) "And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. {4} And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand."

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul shares about the churches in Macedonia, which would include Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. He said they had given liberally, even beyond their ability, and had begged to participate. Then, Paul tells why they had this attitude. He said they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. The Macedonian churches had consecrated themselves to the Lord. When you present your lives to the Lord, it is natural to present yourselves to God's workers who are doing God's work. Notice that Paul ends by saying this was "by the will of God." It is God's will for us to present ourselves to God, to give ourselves to God. If we are going to prove God's will in our lives, it begins with consecrating ourselves to Him.

(2 Cor 8:1-5) "Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, {2} that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. {3} For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, {4} begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, {5} and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God."

2. Preparing Our Minds

The second step in our spiritual service of worship is to prepare our hearts and minds, which is also referred to in our text as transformation. Paul wrote that we are not to be conformed to this world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The New International Version translates this verse very accurately. It says not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world. The Greek word used here for conform is *suschematizo* (Strong's G4964), which means to conform to the same pattern. It is a combination of two words. The word *sun* means a union or joining together between two things. The other word is *schema* means a figure or condition, a fashion. Therefore, we are not to be united with the pattern or mold of the world.

(Rom 12:2 NIV) "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."

How do we recognize what is the world's pattern and God's pattern? The word of God is our plumb line. The word of God gives us wisdom, knowledge and discernment. In order to differentiate between the two, we need to renew our minds, which is to line up our thoughts with God's thoughts. We need to see things from His perspective. We need to embrace His frame of reference. His standards need to be our standards. His judgments need to be our judgments.

We need a Biblical worldview, which many do not have today. If Paul were preaching today, he would preach the same message. The church needs transformation. Much of the church is worldly and conformed to the world. Our dress largely conforms to the culture we live in. Our finances are often carried out in worldly ways. Our lifestyles conform to cultural standards. Our sexual and moral standards reflect the world. When Israel left Egypt, they were supposed to leave Egypt behind. When they crossed the Red Sea, it was a picture of baptism. Unfortunately, they continued to worship the idols and gods of Egypt. In Acts 7, Stephen preached about this just before getting stoned to death. He said that Moses led them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. But, they took their foreign gods with them and worshipped Moloch and Rompha. Even though they had crossed the Red Sea, they had not been transformed; they were still conformed to the world.

(Acts 7:36-43) "This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years... {41} "At that time they made a calf and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. {42} "But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'It was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel? {43} You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha, the images which you made to worship. I also will remove you behind Babylon."

Paul wrote in Romans that when we are baptized, we are buried with Christ. Our sins are buried with Christ, and we are to be raised up as new creations. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we are to be raised from the dead to walk in newness of life. We are to leave behind the ways of the world and to be transformed into a new creation. When we follow Christ, we are to leave the ways and things of the world behind. We are to set our minds on God and on things above.

(Rom 6:3-7) “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; {7} for he who has died is freed from sin.”

The Greek word for transformed is metamorphoo (Strong’s G3339), which means to transform. We get our English word metamorphosis from it. Metamorphosis is the process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages. We commonly think of a moth or butterfly. They change from an egg to a larva (or caterpillar). Then, the caterpillar eats and goes into a pupa stage. Finally, it turns into a beautiful butterfly. Just as there has been a transformation of the insect, our lives are to be transformed into this new creation.

Paul wrote that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Paul does not go into detail here about the renewal process. He does talk about the new life in Christ in many other places, and the emphasis is on setting our minds on the things above. We are to set our minds on the Spirit, not on the things of the flesh. How do we set our minds on things above? We must saturate our minds with Scripture. Peter said that we are to be like newborn babes and long for the pure milk of the word so that we might grow in respect to salvation (1 Peter 2:2). We need to read the word of God every day. It is not enough to read it; we must meditate on His word day and night so that we are careful to do according to all that is in it (Joshua 1:8). Memorization is a good thing to do in conjunction with meditation. In Psalm 119:148, it says, “*My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word.*” We anticipate the night watches by reading and memorizing the word so that we can think and meditate on it during the night. Paul exhorted the Colossians to let the word of Christ richly dwell within them. There needs to be a rich or abundance of God’s word in our hearts, so that it overflows in our conversations and worship.

(1 Pet 2:2) “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,”

(Josh 1:8) “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

(Ps 119:148) “*My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.*”

(Col 3:16) “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Jeremiah wrote, “Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.” We need to eat and partake of God’s word. It needs to become a joy and delight in our heart. It needs to renew our minds and transform our lives. Notice that Jeremiah said he was called by God’s name. Jeremiah’s life was transformed, and he took on the character and mindset of God. I pray

that God's word would richly dwell in Karen and I. I pray that it would be a joy and delight. I pray that our minds will be renewed, and that we will be transformed.

(Jer 15:16) "Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts."

James adds to this discussion by saying that we have to receive the word with humility. He also adds that we need to look intently at the word. Otherwise, after just glancing at the mirror, we see our natural face and then forget what kind of person we were. James' main point is that we have to look intently and become a doer of the word, not just a hearer of the word. When we become doers of the word, we are transformed from the natural man to the spiritual man. Church, we must read, memorize, meditate, study, and apply God's word in our lives. When we become doers of His word, our lives are transformed and a metamorphosis takes place. Church, if you are not spending time reading and saturating your mind with God's word, I urge you to begin spending time in God's word. I urge you to consecrate yourselves and to set aside time to read God's word. I urge you to spend time meditating on His word.

(James 1:21-25) "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. {22} But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. {23} For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; {24} for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. {25} But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."

3. Proving God's Will

The third step in our spiritual service of worship is proving God's will in our lives. Romans 12:2 says that we may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect.

(Rom 12:2c) "...so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

I mentioned that we were going to plant a garden. I bought a used tiller to help me break up and prepare the soil. Even though it was advertised as being in very good condition, it turned out that it was not in great condition. I found the nearest Troy-Bilt dealer and service center, which was in Centre, Alabama. I took my tiller there to be repaired. When I picked it up, the mechanic loaded it on my truck and I drove home with it. When I took it off the truck, I tried it out, only to find that the tiller did not work any better than it did when I took it in. It was unusable. When I proved the condition of the tiller, it was unacceptable. I called the service center and took it back to them. This week I received a call from them that it was ready. They had to replace the throttle cable and adjust the gear box. After bringing it back, I immediately tried it out and it worked great. This time, the tiller proved to be acceptable. I used it this week to mix together the peat moss, manure, and clay soil on our lot. Just as my tiller needed to be proved, our lives need to be proved. We have to present our lives to God, prepare our hearts and minds, and then prove the will of God in everything that we do.

Paul gives three attributes of God's will: good, acceptable, and perfect. These are the three criteria that will prove God's will in our lives: we must do things that good, acceptable, perfect. The word for prove in our text is dokimazo (Strong's G1381), and it is used twenty-three times in the New Testament. It means to examine, analyze, test, prove, or approve. We have to examine, analyze, test, or prove every decision and action in our lives, because we want God's will to be done in our lives, not our own will.

The word, dokimazo is not used exclusively for God's will. We are to test (dokimazo) a deacon before setting him in office (1 Tim 3:10). We are to examine ourselves and judge ourselves rightly before taking the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:25-32). We are to judge what foods we will eat, and whatever foods we approve to eat, we should eat from faith (Rom 14:22-23).

(1 Tim 3:10) "These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."

(1 Cor 11:27-32) "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. {28} But a man must **examine (dokimazo)** himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. {29} For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly."

(Rom 14:22-23) "The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he **approves (dokimazo)**. {23} But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin."

In our text, Romans 12:2, we are to prove God's will in our lives. It is that same word, dokimazo, which means to examine, analyze, test, and approve things in our life to make sure that we are doing God's will. The root word of dokimazo is dokeo (Strong's G1380), which means to think. At the root of determining, we have to examine things to make a judgment or determination if this is God's will or not. In proving God's will in our lives, there are some steps. Paul gives us three keys to focus on when examining and proving what the will of God is for our lives. He said that God's will is good, acceptable and perfect.

(Rom 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **prove (dokimazo)** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

A. Is it good?

Is what I am considering doing good? In 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, Paul exhorted us to examine everything carefully, to hold fast to that which is good, and to abstain from every form of evil. Paul uses the same word, dokimazo, only this time it is translated as examine. God expects us to examine everything and hold fast to that which is good. If something is counterfeit, like that "gold" ring, we are not to be fooled by it; we are to abstain.

(1 Thess 5:21-22) "But **examine (dokimazo)** everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; {22} abstain from every form of evil."

In Ephesians 5:7-13, Paul is writing about this transformed life. He said that we were formerly darkness, but now we are light in the Lord, and we are to walk as children of light. Notice that he says that the fruit of light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth. The first test is to see if it is good. God's will is full of goodness and righteousness and truth. Notice in verse ten that Paul writes, "trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." For some reason the NASB translated it as learn rather than prove. The KJV has it correct, and they translated it as "proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." How do you know if it is acceptable? It must be good and righteous and full of truth.

(Eph 5:7-13) "Therefore do not be partakers with them; {8} for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light {9} (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), {10} trying to **learn (dokimazo)** what is pleasing to the Lord. {11} Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; {12} for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. {13} But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light."

(Eph 5:10 KJV) "Proving (dokimazo) what is acceptable unto the Lord."

Are the words that I am about to speak good words? Is what I am about to do good? Would my spouse say this is good? Would my pastor say this is good? Most important, would God say this is good. God's will is always good. Notice in Romans 8:28 that God works things together for good in our lives, to those who love God and have been called according to His purpose or will. God's will is always good. His ways are always good. God's results are always good. In proving God's will, ask yourself is this a good thing or not.

(Rom 8:28) "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose."

B. Is it acceptable (to God)?

Is the action that I am considering doing acceptable? The Greek word is *eurastos* (Strong's G2101), which means acceptable or pleasing. The root words mean good (*eu*) and fully acceptable, pleasing, or fitting (*arestos*). Is it acceptable to the authorities in my life? Is it acceptable to other people around me? Will the results of what I do be acceptable? Most of all, is this acceptable to God? Notice that Paul has already mentioned that a living and holy sacrifice is acceptable to God. We also saw in Ephesians 5:7-10 that when we walk as children of Light, which consists of all goodness and righteousness and truth, this is pleasing or acceptable to God.

(Eph 5:7-10) "Therefore do not be partakers with them; {8} for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light {9} (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), {10} trying to **learn (dokimazo)** what is pleasing to the Lord."

The word acceptable is used forty-six times in the Bible. A good word study to do is to look up all those Scriptures and meditate on each one. You will begin to see the things that God says are acceptable. One of those references is in 1 Peter 2:5, where we are called living stones and are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. That is the church. God is not wanting people who just come occasionally to a church.

(1 Pet 2:5) “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

In Matthew 16, Jesus said He is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail. God is building His church with living stones. These stones are being fit together and built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. What do these holy priests, that is you and I, do? They offer up spiritual sacrifices, and these sacrifices are acceptable to God. What are these spiritual sacrifices? These sacrifices include many things, but according to Hebrews 13:15-16 these include the sacrifice of praise to God and the giving of thanks to His name. They include doing good and sharing, for with these sacrifices God is pleased.

(Heb 13:15-16) “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. {16} And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

C. Is it perfect?

The third question to ask when proving the will of God: Is what I am considering perfect? The Greek word for perfect that is used here is teleios, which means complete in labor, growth, mental or moral character. It means completeness. It is the same word used in Ephesians 4:12 that is translated as mature. Is it complete? Does it have integrity? Will it make me more mature? Will it bring me closer to the goal of transformation in my life? Will it help those around me become more mature in their faith? God’s will is for the body of Christ to come to maturity.

(Strong’s G5046) teleios, tel'-i-os; from G5056; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neut. (as noun, with G3588) completeness:--of full age, man, perfect.

Sometimes we go through trials and it is according to God’s will because He wants to mature us. Notice in James 1 that we are to rejoice when we encounter various trials. Why? We are to rejoice because these trials and the testing of our faith makes us more mature, which is God’s will. Sometimes we look for the easy way out, but God is looking for what will help us become more mature. Here is the third question we have to ask when proving God’s will: Is this perfect and will it lead me to becoming more perfect and mature?

(James 1:2-4) “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. {4} And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Conclusion and Applications

God wants us to worship Him, and one of the ways we worship Him is with our lives. There are three steps given today. We are to present our lives as living and holy sacrifices. Second, we are to prepare our minds. We are not to be conformed to the world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. If I plant our garden without preparing the soil, we will not have very good results. It needs to be prepared, just as our hearts and minds need to be prepared. The third step is to prove God’s will in our lives. The final proof is a transformed life that is honoring and glorifying God.

Prayer: Father, we want to be a church full of worshippers. We want to be a church that worships you with more than music. We want to worship You with our lives. Father, as a church, we want to do Your will. We want to learn to do the things that are acceptable and pleasing to You. Help us to prove Your will in our lives. We offer our bodies as living and holy sacrifices, which is our spiritual service of worship. May You be honored and glorified by our worship. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Q&A

Here are some questions to consider today.

In the area of being consecrated:

- Have I given my life to Christ? Have I received Christ into my life?
- Have you presented your whole life to the Lord or are there parts of it that you have withheld from Him?
- What is the hardest area in your life to put on the altar or to present to God?

In the area of being conformed to the world or being transformed:

- What is the difference between being stylish and being worldly?
- How do we relate to the world and yet not become conformed to the world?
- What is an area of my life that needs transformation?
- How much time do I spend renewing my mind each day?

In the area of proving God's will in my life:

- Does my life reflect God's character and nature? Do people say about you what they said to Jeremiah? They called him by God's name.
- Am I maturing in my relationship with God?
- Do I know God more intimately now than I did last year, or even last week?

Introduction (1 Tim 3:10, 1 Cor 11:25-32, Rom 14:22-23, Rom 12:1-2, Phil 1:9-11)

1. **Presenting our Lives** (Rom 12:1, Col 3:23-24, Heb 13:15-16, Ps 141:2, Rev 5:8, 8:3-4, 2 Cor 8:1-5)

2. **Preparing our Minds** (Rom 12:2, Acts 7:36-43, Rom 6:3-7, 1 Pet 2:2, Josh 1:8, Ps 119:148, James 1:21-25)

3. **Proving God's Will** (Rom 12:2c)
 - A. **Is it good?** (1 Thess 5:21-22, Eph 5:7-13, Rom 8:28)

 - B. **Is it acceptable (to God)?** (Eph 5:7-10, 1 Pet 2:5, Heb 13:15-16, Eph 6:1-3, 1 Tim 5:3-4)

 - C. **Is it perfect?** (Eph 4:12, Ex 28:30, Ez 2:63, Eph 4:1-13, James 1:2-4)

Conclusion and Applications