



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

Living Sacrifice

Rev. Bill Pardue

I. Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

II. Introduction

“Almost everyone I know is busy. They feel anxious and guilty when they aren’t either working or doing something to promote their work...even *children* are busy now, scheduled down to the half-hour with classes and extracurricular activities. They come home at the end of the day as tired as grown-ups...Busyness serves as a kind of existential reassurance, a hedge against emptiness; obviously your life cannot possibly be silly or trivial or meaningless if you are so busy, completely booked, in demand every hour of the day.”

- Tim Kreider, *The Busy Trap*

III. Big Idea

The mercy of God in Christ exhorts and empowers us to give our lives to Him by embracing the Spirit’s work of renewal.

- Basis for Giving
- Process of Giving
- Purpose of Giving

IV. Basis for Giving

“Paul’s point is that it is eminently reasonable, given the mercies of God, for believers to dedicate themselves wholly to Him...since God has been so merciful, failure to dedicate one’s life to him is the height of folly and irrationality.”

- T. Schreiner

V. Process of Giving

“No one can be ‘sanctified’ or set apart for the Lord’s use without learning to think God’s thoughts after him, without learning to live in conformity with the ‘word’ he has graciously given.”

- D.A. Carson

VI. The Purpose of Giving

Psalm 40:8 - I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

VII. Conclusion

“Idleness is not just a vacation, an indulgence or a vice; it is as indispensable to the brain as vitamin D is to the body, and deprived of it we suffer a mental affliction as disfiguring as rickets. The space and quiet that idleness provides is a necessary condition for standing back from life and seeing it whole, for making unexpected connections and waiting for the wild summer lightning strikes of inspiration — it is, paradoxically, necessary to getting any work done.”

- Tim Kreider, *The Busy Trap*
