

## On the Altar

Refocus · Replace · Render · Rededicate · Repent · Remade

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

### Refocus, Replace, Render

Online · 7:00 p.m. · RightNow Session 8 · Romans 12:1

#### THE TEXT

- 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. (ESV)
- 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship. (NIV)

**parakaleō** <pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh> παρακαλέω *greek word of the week*

Ask earnestly, invite, call together. The force lies between commanding and beseeching. The same root stands behind the name for the Holy Spirit as Comforter, the one called alongside.

#### 1. Refocus *motivation. I urge you.*

**The word.** Parakaleō. Something less than a command is what is needed here. The decision is to be that of the Romans. The surrender must be completely willing.

**The heart.** The apostle Paul is simply saying, hear my heart. He had the authority to order them and asked instead.

**What has God been urging that you have been waiting to be commanded about?**

***“A surrender that had to be commanded was never a surrender.”***

Dr. Brandon McCrae

#### 2. Replace *model. Living sacrifices.*

**What they had seen.** They had stood by their altar and watched an animal identified as their own, slain in the ritual manner, its blood manipulated, and the victim burned and ascending in the flames.

**The imagery.** To suggest that they themselves should be sacrifices was a striking piece of imagery.

**What have you laid on the altar and then picked back up?**

***“Paul calls his readers to become what they have often taken for granted.”***

Dr. Brandon McCrae

### 3. **Render** *what is actually being offered*

**Two outlooks.** The Greek view held that the body was a receptacle containing a soul. The Jewish view held that man was a whole, complete unit. Body, mind, heart and soul.

**The vehicle.** The body is a vehicle that implements the desires and choices of the redeemed spirit.

**If somebody only watched your body this week, your hands, your feet, your calendar, what would they say you worship?**

**“God is after your worship. When your heart is on the altar, your life will follow.”**

Dr. Brandon McCrae

#### BEFORE WE GO

**Carry it home.** Name one part of yourself you have offered God in theory and never in practice. Just name it.

**Next.** Sunday, October 25. Equipping Hour, 9:15 a.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 **Rededicate, Repent, Remade**

*Equipping Hour · 9:15–10:15 a.m. · Romans 12:2a*

#### THE TEXT

**2a** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. (ESV)

**2a** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (NIV)

***syschematizō / metamorphoō*** <soos-kay-mah-TID-zo / met-ah-mor-FO-oh>

συσχηματίζω / μεταμορφόω *greek word of the week*

Two verbs, one verse. Syschematizō is built on schēma, outward form, the shape a thing takes on. Metamorphoō is built on morphē, essential form, what a thing actually is. A costume against a character.

#### 1. **Rededicate** *manner. Holy and pleasing.*

**Two meanings.** Holy means consecrated, which is set apart, and dedicated, which is wholly given.

**The division.** Set apart is what God does to you. Wholly given is what you do about it. Plenty of people are the first and not the second.

**What are you bringing to God that you would not hand to your supervisor?**

**“Set apart is God’s work. Wholly given is yours.”**

Dr. Brandon McCrae

## 2. Repent *maintain. Do not conform.*

**The maintenance.** Verse one called for a decisive commitment. Verse two deals with keeping it.

**Aiōn.** Age, era, world system. It is not a place, it is a period. You cannot move away from an age.

**What have you blended into without ever deciding to?**

*“The world will never ask you to convert. It only asks you to blend.”*

Dr. Brandon McCrae

## 3. Remade *the two verbs*

**Conformed.** Syschematizō, built on schēma, outward form. The shape you take on. The arrangement of the surface.

**Transformed.** Metamorphoō, built on morphē, essential form. Not what a thing looks like. What a thing is.

**Which one are you working on right now, the shape or the nature?**

*“You can change your shape by yourself. You cannot change your nature.”*

Dr. Brandon McCrae

## BEFORE WE GO

**Carry it home.** Sit with the hymn’s question for seven days. Is your all on the altar, or only the part that looks good on the outside?

**Hymn of the month.** Is Your All on the Altar. Stanza three.

**Next.** Wednesday, October 28 is Harvest Fest. No online session. We gather again Sunday, November 1.

## Who's Who in Romans

### THE PEOPLE

**Paul** (*PAWL*) An apostle. He did not start this church and had never set foot in it when he wrote to them.

**Claudius** (*KLAW-dee-us*) Roman emperor. Around A.D. 49 he expelled many Jews from Rome, emptying this church of most of its Jewish believers.

**Nero** (*NEE-roh*) The emperor after Claudius. He blamed the Christians for the fire that burned two-thirds of Rome.

**Priscilla and Aquila** (*prih-SIL-uh, uh-KWIL-uh*) A married couple put out of Rome under Claudius. Paul meets them in Corinth. Acts 18:2.

**Chrestus** (*KRES-tus*) The name in the Roman record of the riots, generally agreed to be a corruption of Christos. The fighting was about Jesus.

### THE TWO GROUPS IN THE ROOM

**Jews** God's covenant people. The first believers in Rome were Jewish, converted at Pentecost and carrying the gospel home.

**Gentiles** (*JEN-tiles*) Everyone who is not Jewish. While the Jewish believers were exiled, this church became mostly Gentile. They came home to a room they did not recognize.

### THE PLACES AND THE SPACES

**Rome** Capital of the empire. A church grew there with no apostle to plant it, so it had to be taught and disciplined from the start.

**The house church** There were no church buildings. They met in homes, which is how this church survived being scattered.

**The altar** The space this month stands on. A raised place where an animal was killed and burned. Everyone reading this letter had stood next to one.

### THE TWO PICTURES

**The olive tree** (*Romans 11*) Branches broken off, a wild shoot grafted in. The tree is God's covenant people, the shoot is the Gentile believer. The root supports you, not you the root.

**The living sacrifice** (*Romans 12:1*) Every sacrifice they had watched ended in death. Paul asks for one that stays alive, and that is the difficulty this series is named after.

### WORDS WORTH KNOWING

**Therefore** The word in Romans 12:1 pointing back to eleven chapters of what God has already done.

**Apostle** One sent with authority to speak for Christ. This church grew without one over it.

**Doxology** (*dok-SOL-uh-jee*) A burst of praise. Romans 11:33–36 is one, right before the therefore.

**Consecrate** (*KON-suh-krate*) To set something apart for God's use only.

### THE GREEK, ONE WORD A WEEK

**oun** <OON> Therefore. A small word carrying everything said before it.

**parakaleō** <pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh> I urge you. Between commanding and beseeching. Paul could have ordered and chose to ask.

**syschematizō / metamorphoō** <soos-kay-mah-TID-zo, met-ah-mor-FO-oh> Conform and transform. The shape you take on, against what you actually are.

**anakainōsis** <ah-nah-KAI-no-sis> Renewal. A making new, not a repair of the old.

***“Discipleship does not start with a command. It starts with a memory.”***

Dr. Brandon McCrae

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