

Romans 12:1 • Therefore, In View Of God's Mercies

Romans 12:1 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.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

We come before you now, believing and trusting, because in your mercy and grace you have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Therefore, it is our desire to receive and experience your many promises made to your adopted children, whom you rejoice over with gladness.

Thank you that you promise to quiet us by your love.

Thank you that you promise:
“Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
We humbly come now asking, seeking, knocking.
We are in search of the rest that is only found in you.
Give us the grace to grasp the magnitude of the mercy you have bestowed on us.
May it create overwhelming joy and worship that overflows into service.

Chapter 1

Father we acknowledge that we love because you first loved us.

By faith we rest in the fact that we are loved by God and called to be saints. You have given us your grace and peace.

We thank you for the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. In the gospel your righteousness, which we so desperately need, is revealed.

We were lost. We were massively guilty of the very essence of sin - exchanging your glory for images.

Chapter 2

We have no excuse. We constantly presumed on the riches of your kindness and forbearance and patience.

Chapter 3

As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

We lived delusional, thinking that by works we could attain righteousness. Your law revealed to us our sin and the reality that by works of the law no human being will be justified in your sight.

We were blind to the good news that was revealed in the Law and the Prophets. In your mercy you have made manifest that the righteousness required is only found apart from the law.

The righteousness of God is found only through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We can only be justified by your grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom you, God put forward as a propitiation by his blood.

This gift, this costly gift, can only be received by faith.

God all sin, all exchanging of your glory is justly deserving of your eternal wrath. But in your divine forbearance you passed over former sins... until the cross. Your wrath, that we deserved fell on Christ Jesus. You upheld your holy justice by becoming our justifier. By faith in Jesus we are made righteous because he absorbed all of your wrath that we deserved.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.
For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Chapter 4

Father, by your grace we are counted righteous by believing and accepting the reality of what Jesus accomplished.

For what does the Scripture say?
“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

The good news of the good news is that you justify the ungodly, not because of works, but just like Abraham, we are counted righteous by believing you.

King David speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

Father we thank you that because of Jesus, you count us righteous.

Because of Jesus all of our lawless deeds are forgiven.

Because of Jesus all our sins are covered.

Because of Jesus our sins will never be counted against us!

The good news depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all who share the faith of Abraham.

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead
Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses

and raised for our justification.

Chapter 5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace with God allows us eternal access into grace. We stand in your grace at all times, ever rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God.

Father as your children you have poured your love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

All of this grace upon grace was given to us not because of our efforts.
For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Because of Jesus we are at peace with God.

Because of Jesus we stand in grace.

Because of Jesus we have the Holy Spirit.

Because of Jesus we are justified.

Because of Jesus we are forever saved from wrath.

Because of Jesus we are reconciled to the one relationship that we were created for.

Because of Jesus, where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Chapter 6

Father, allow us to live in the reality that Jesus death, burial and resurrection has set us free from sin ruling over us.

How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Give us the grace to know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Give us the grace to know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Because of Jesus we have been set free from sin!
Because of Jesus we are no longer enslaved to sin.
Because of Jesus we walk in newness of life.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Give us the grace to accept the fact that we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Because of Jesus, sin has have no more dominion over us,
Because of Jesus, we are not under law but under grace.

Thanks be to God, that we who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

We have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God,

This new peaceful relationship with you God, naturally bears fruit that leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Father we praise you! Your grace towards us is truly amazing. As former slaves to sin our wages were death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter 7

Because of Jesus, we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Being born again and walking in newness of life, you Father have given us the desire to do what is right but without reliance on the Holy Spirit we have no ability to do the right things we now desire.

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, can walk in accord with our deepest desires and not be controlled by our fleshly passions.

Chapter 8

Father, when we fail and do sin, we can always rise back up to freedom, knowing that we have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous. We rest in the glorious truth that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. We praise you God that you have done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending your own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, Jesus condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

It is absolutely true that those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But it is also absolutely true that we are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,

if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

As your children, we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

One of our deepest assurances is rooted in the truth that you Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Holy Spirit thank you that you are constantly helping us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but thank you Holy Spirit that you intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Thank you Holy Spirit that you are constantly interceding for us, the saints, according to the will of God.

Give us the grace to rest in the truth that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Oh how utterly secure your children are, for those whom you foreknew you also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that we, your children might be the firstborn among many brothers.

And those whom you predestined you also called, and those whom you called you also justified, and those whom you justified you also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn?
Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through you God, who loved us.

For we are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter 9

Father we rest in all the promises that you have made to us, your children. The word of God has not failed and will never fail because all the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus and his finished work.

Father we thank you that being in Christ means we are inseparably part of your body, the church - we belong to true Israel, we are the children of the promise and are counted as your offspring.

Father we humbly rest in the security of knowing that you chose us before the foundations of the world, before we were born, before we had done anything either good or bad.

This was all done in grace so that your purpose of election might stand, not because of works but because and only because of you who calls—

Father we stand in silence and awe that you are just and free to have mercy on whom you sovereignly chose to have mercy, and whom you sovereignly chose to show compassion.

We acknowledge that it depends not on human will or exertion, but on you, God, who has mercy.

Father as your children, chosen by grace, we can scarcely take it in that all of redemptive history, which includes your eternal wrath, is designed by you to make known the riches of your glory for us, vessels of mercy, which you have prepared beforehand for glory—

even us whom you have called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles.

Chapter 10

Father, all of history is the unfolding of your incredible love story for your chosen people. The elect of God.

All through redemptive history you have made is clear that man seeking to establish their own righteousness is ignorant of the righteousness of God.

The good news declares that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all,
bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Chapter 11

God in your mercy you have chosen to save a remnant of ethnic Israel, chosen by
grace.

Israel and anyone else from any tribe, tongue or nation will always fail to obtain
what it is seeking by works. The elect of Israel and anyone else of the elect from
any tribe, tongue or nation obtained salvation by grace alone.

In this way all Israel will be saved, all of your people whom you sovereignly
chosen to show mercy.

The word of God has not failed and will never fail because all the promises of God
find their Yes in Jesus and his finished work.

For this reason we rest in knowing that the gifts and the calling of God are
irrevocable.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable
are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.

Amen.

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.