

April 18, 2021

# Scott's Thoughts



*"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. 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."* (Romans 12:1-2, ESV)

I think that today I'll just look at a few words in these two verses and if I run out of things to say about them, I'll just tackle a few of the verses that follow. The first word that catches my eye is "appeal" which is to ask for something earnestly and with propriety — 'to ask for (earnestly), to request, to plead for, to appeal to, earnest request, appeal'. Some might use the word beg. Have you ever been in a position where you begged someone to do something that was to their benefit? What comes to my mind is dealing with children especially when they are set on doing something that will not improve their life and may harm them. Pleading with them hurts doesn't it? It makes me appreciate what my mother tried to accomplish for all six of us children.

The phrase, "Mercies of God" describes giving mercy and concern with the implication of sensitivity and compassion — 'to have mercy, to show compassion, mercy, tender compassion. I like the words tender and compassion. The word tender carries the idea of gentleness. I have found that when dealing with the ones I love,

tenderness goes much further than demanding. I wish I had known this and had the common sense to do it years ago. I really believe I learned tenderness from Ava. She has always been exactly that. Compassion is the ability to relate to and feel the other person's point of view. To stop and consider how someone else sees an issue gives me a deeper understanding of the person and often has amazing results.

The word, "Sacrifice" is that which is offered as a sacrifice — 'sacrifice' in this context is something we are giving to God. The most important aspect of the word is that when we offer something in this way, we give up all control of it. From that point on, the receiver determines what is done with it.

The next word has such a beautiful meaning. "Transformed" is to change the essential form or nature of something — 'to become, to change, to be changed into, to be transformed'. This word is used to describe what happens to a caterpillar in the cocoon. What goes into the cocoon looks nothing like what comes out. It is radically different. That is what God would have from us. To allow Him, through His word, to change us so completely that no one would recognize us as the people we once were.

*"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* (Romans 12:4-5, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott

All definitions are from the Louw-Nida Greek Lexicon.