

Based on the preaching from Sunday **30 August, 2026**, ‘**Responding to God’s mercy: living sacrifices, renewed minds**’

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Sermon Text: **Romans 12:1-5**

Key Ideas from the Sermon:

- Paul summarises all the theology and doctrine he has taught in chapters 1-11 as ‘God’s mercy.’ In view of God’s mercy, there are two responses he urges us to make.
- The first response is to offer our bodies, in reality our whole selves, as a living sacrifice to God. Sacrificially offering ourselves, our very lives, is a supreme act of worship.
- The second response is to renew our minds, again, literally our whole selves. Renewing our minds is to follow Paul’s instructions from Philippians 4:8 to think about what is true, noble, pure, lovely, etc. and avoid what is deceitful, impure, selfish and vulgar.
- Paul promises that renewing our minds in this manner will produce, by the power of the Holy Spirit, a transformed life. We will more and more resemble in reality who God declares us to be in Christ.
- This offering and renewing is not a one time event but a daily submission wilful choice.
- When we offer ourselves sacrificially to God, we will know God’s will, what he wants us to do in every situation.



Bible Study: The Swedish Method [**Romans 10:1-4, 8-13**]

1. Begin by praying, asking God to speak through His Word
2. Read the Bible passage aloud, being careful to read slowly
3. Go back over the passage (allow about 10 minutes of silence), being on the lookout for and taking note of the following four things:



Lightbulb: This should be something that ‘shines’ from the passage- whatever impacts most, or draws attention.

Notes:



Question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader might like to ask the writer of the passage, or the Lord.

Notes:



Jesus: What does this passage teach me about who Jesus is, what he has done for me and what it means for me to follow him in my life.

Notes:



Arrow: A personal application for the reader’s life.

Notes: