



BOOK 3—ROMANS 12 to 15

**Pack Your Bags and
JOIN US IN ROMANS**

Romans 12

Study 9

Worship at Work

INTRODUCTION

These days, Christians are fascinated by the subject of "Worship". But what is worship anyway? And where and when are we meant to be doing it? As Paul turns the corner in his letter and starts getting practical, the life of worship is his first concern!

THINK ABOUT IT

Tick three items on the following list that YOU think are the essential ingredients of worshipping God...

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a sense of awe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | dignified music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | reflective music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | modern music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | an old church building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a starry night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a kitchen sink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | time to think |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | other people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | no other people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | helping someone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | encouraging another Christian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | meditating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a Sunday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | any day I feel like it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | every day whether I feel like it or not |

What's YOUR definition of worshipping God?

BIBLE FOCUS

Turn to Romans 12, and read verses 1 to 12. This is an important turning point in Paul's letter to the Romans. In chapters 1 to 11, he's dealt with the theory - how we get right with God through the sacrifice of Jesus, and the fact that all of us are sinners who rely on God's mercy and not our own merit - now he deals with the practical issues of how we live our lives in response.

1. What is Paul's definition of worship from verse 1?

2. What do you think it means to be a "living sacrifice"?

3. What reason does Paul give for doing this?

4. How much time and energy do you think this form of worship involves?

5. To live in a way that's HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD (v1), we need to look carefully at Paul's advice in the next few verses - because he tells us HOW. What's the first step he gives us in verse 2?

What does this mean in practice?

How can we start "thinking Christianly"?

6. Perhaps BEING A LIVING SACRIFICE means giving up your own claims on your life. According to verses 3 to 7, what should we be doing with our time and talents?

(Verse 3 gives a hint of what we usually do instead!)

7. According to Paul, "we who are many form one body." Make a list of the parts and functions he mentions here.

Gift List....

Who benefits from the use of these gifts?

8. Do you think YOU have any of these gifts? List the ones you think you may have, or the ones you'd most like to have.

Do you think any of the items in the list are more important or have more status than any others? Why or why not?

Study 9 – page 3

9. If you don't feel you have any of the gifts in the list, don't despair. There are others listed in 1 Corinthians 12 - but even then, it's just a small selection. Rather than worrying too much about the gifts we might or might not have, what should our attitude be?

READ verses 9 to 21. Living life as a walking, talking sacrifice is living a life of LOVE.

As you think through the many definitions of love in these verses, can you identify the areas in which you most often fail? What can you do about it?

11. How can we become a more loving church? Which of the areas Paul mentions do we need to work on most?

Guess What! If we can get this right... we're WORSHIPPING RIGHT!