



## Times of Worship

<b>Sunday Bible Classes:</b>	9am
<b>Sunday AM Worship:</b>	10am
<b>Sunday PM Worship:</b>	5pm
<b>Wednesday Bible Study:</b>	7pm

## Join us Online

### Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

### YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUbQ4GRKyA>

## Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to [patcawthon@gmail.com](mailto:patcawthon@gmail.com)

## Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

## Our Reasonable Service

In **Romans 12:1** the apostle Paul is making a powerful “therefore” statement. As someone told me, “When you see the word ‘therefore’ you need to see what it’s there for.” Paul spent eleven chapters building up to this great climax in chapter 12. He says, “*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*”

“I urge you by the mercies of God...” Paul has talked a lot about God’s mercy bestowed on us prior to this statement. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; both Jews and Gentiles. (**Rom 3:23**) Therefore, we are all in need of God’s grace and mercy towards us.

Paul spends a lot of time explaining how we then can receive God’s mercy that we so desperately need. Paul says time and time again that we are justified (made right and pure) by faith. There were many who preached, and still preach today, that people are justified by keeping the Law. Or as some put it today, if you are a really good person and do lots of good things, you will be saved.

Paul points out that people have been saved by faith in the OT as well as the NT. Faith is not a NT concept at all. In fact, it is impossible to please God without having faith in Him. (**Heb 11:6**) From the very beginning Paul

## New Songs

- ◆ Be Strong and Courageous
- ◆ Savior and Friend
- ◆ Faithful Love

## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

- ◆ Jennie Gray (10/31)
- ◆ Keith Malone (10/31)
- ◆ Luke Cawthon (11/2)
- ◆ Hannah Davis (11/4)

## Calendar Items

**PM Song Service** tonight

**Women's Bible Study** at the building on Tuesdays at 11am

**Singing Class** on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

**Men's Meeting** every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4pm at the building

## Today's Lessons

- ◆ The Work of a Shepherd
- ◆ Song Service

## Midweek Bible Study

- ◆ Luke 3:1ff

quotes **Habakkuk 2:4**, "The righteous man shall live by faith."

Abraham lived out his faith and it was credited to him as righteousness. (**Rom 4:3**) Abraham was not saved because of the works he did for God, or else he would have something to boast about. To the Jews, Abraham was the greatest person ever. They thought that since they were children of Abraham, they were good. If Abraham was not saved by his works but by faith, how much more are we?!

If we believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification, then our faith will be credited to us as righteous. (**Rom 4:22-25**) Because Jesus died on the cross and was raised again on the third day, our sins can be washed away through baptism. Jesus gave His life for us giving us the hope of eternal life.

So based on God's great mercies, we are to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice to God which is our "spiritual service of worship." The word "spiritual" literally means, "rational." In other words, based on what Christ did for us, it is more than reasonable and rational that we give our life to His service. It would not make sense that we not respond in serving Him on a daily basis based on what He did for you and me.

One of my favorite hymns is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." In the first three verses, it describes what Christ did for us on the cross. The fourth verse is our response: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." This is our reasonable service.

The rest of the chapter describes in very practical ways in which we can be a living and holy sacrifice to God. I encourage you to read it frequently so we can live out our faith in Him.

Patrick