



## ***St. Paul Evangelical Community Church (SPECC)***

**Worship Address** : Cerritos High School Auditorium  
12500 E. 183<sup>rd</sup> St., Cerritos, CA 90703  
(Enter at Bloomfield, across Heritage Park)  
**Mailing Address** : 11428 E. Artesia Blvd. # 4 ; Artesia, CA 90701  
562-924-5051  
**Website** : [www.sp-ecc.org](http://www.sp-ecc.org)

June 7, 2009

**Theme: Enjoy a life and ministry that is so pleasing to God**

**Text: Romans 12:1-2**

Road map! This is a phrase that has been used frequently by politicians, chairmen of corporations and business CEOs, as well as by ordinary people. The phrase “road map” is used so often because it conveys something important for each and every one of us: a desire to have help and guidance to reach our intended destination.

In the big picture of our own lives, we yearn to have a road map so that we can reach our respective destinies. And this road map should be known as the will of God. Indeed, should we know the will of God, and live our lives according to this will, we will have lives without anxiety. This morning we want to explore this very subject: How can we enjoy our lives and ministries in a way that is pleasing to God?

### **(1). God ask us to present our body as living sacrifice. Verse 1**

In the ancient world, many religions have presented dead animals as sacrifices; some even presented human beings as a living sacrifice. This is not what it means in this verse. This verse is asking that we, as believers in Christ, should have a life that is wholly dedicated to God. By this, Christians ought to live out new lives that have been given by God. We ought to put off the old, and put on the new. “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blaspheme, filthy language [such as cursing and swearing] out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another.” “ Adultery, fornication [e.g., free sex, premarital sex] idolatry, sorcery [e.g., horoscopes], hatred, contentions, jealousies, out burst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like” (Colossians 3:8-9; Galatians 5:19-21). These are our old natures. What does the new look like? The Bible says that we need to put on “Tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if any one has complaint against another, even as Christ for gave you, so you also must do” (Colossians 3:12-13). We also must live in peace, in faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

This is a very high standard of living that God has set for each and every one of us. He wants us to be his living witnesses of the mighty power of the Gospel that can change sinners like us to become holy and acceptable to God. By His grace and by the power of Holy Spirit we shall become victorious Christians!



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### **(2). God asks us not to conform to this world, but to let our minds be transformed and renewed daily. Verse 2**

In our daily living there are many polluting agents that can affect us. Many years ago in a small town, there was a chemical factory that produced a pollutant gas. Many residents breathed it unconsciously. Month after month, their health was affected and began to deteriorate. Soon they became very ill. My friends, our living environments are not healthy at all. Advertising billboards on the roadsides, TV ads, TV programs, and even some of our school systems' teaching materials and social environments have influenced us. Negative values have penetrated into our minds, especially into our children's minds. We have been brainwashed by them. Our role model, instead of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has the aforementioned high standard of morality, has become Paris Hilton, or Sean Penn, or other Hollywood celebrities. We have tended to become consumeristic, materialistic, name brand-minded. Many Christians do not take the Christian lifestyle seriously. They have been conformed by this world! All of us need to search our hearts to ask ourselves whether our hearts are still focused on Him. We should be careful to not be conformed by this world. We need to repent before God!

Besides, by the grace of God, we must be transformed to the image of Christ. In 2 Peter 1:5-8, it says: "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self control; to self control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ...Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall."

(3). The Bible teaches us that if we live as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Him, this is a spiritual act of worship; and if our lives are not conformed to this world but are transformed daily by His grace, that we may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Verse 2.

If we live as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Him, the Bible says that it is an act of worship. In fact the Greek word *latreuo* means worship or service. When someone is part of and acts in worship to God, it means that that person is in the mode of serving with reverence. If we live as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, then it means that we should serve Him with every fiber of our hearts, minds and souls. That means, in part, that we should treat worship service every Sunday seriously and with reverence, we should determine to come to the church punctually, to come early to prepare our hearts to worship Him. This act of living as living sacrifices should occur throughout the week; we worship Him daily. Thus, we will be able to know what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. We will get our road map and be able to live our lives in peace and in a joyful spirit. Do we want to get this kind of lifestyle? Then let us do what the Bible has taught us today.