



## Alterations or Altarations?

Romans 12:1-2  
Pastor Rick Langer

### 1. Introduction

### 2. The Altar and the Sacrifice

A. "...present your bodies..."

B. "...living sacrifice..."

C. "...do not be conform to the world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

D. "...test and approve..."

#### E. Conclusions

1. A good result

2. A long process

### 3. Altarations—A Guidebook for the Altared

A. Why?

B. How?

C. What now?

#### Study Questions on Rom 12:1-2

##### Reflection on Altarations...

1. As you think back through your Christian life, what are some of the greatest changes that have taken place in your character, relationships, and actions?
2. Are there areas that have proven difficult to change? If so, how have you attempted to change these areas of your life? What has worked, and what hasn't?
3. What is the difference between being "altered" and being "altared"?
4. Read through Romans 12:1-2:
  - Paul begins this passage with a therefore. What is he referring to by this word?
  - He makes an explicit appeal to the mercies of God—what are some of those mercies? (Many commentators feel that this is a reference to the entirety of the Romans 1-11, so you have a lot to choose from!) How have you experienced God's mercy in your own life?
  - The text asks us to make ourselves a living sacrifice. This entails an ongoing process of sacrifice. What does this really mean in your own personal, daily life?
  - What are some of the strongest forces that are seeking to conform you to the image of this world? (Where do you most experience the pressure of these forces?)
  - What are some of the things that you have found most helpful in transforming and renewing your mind?
5. In the close of the sermon, it was suggested that part of the secret of being transformed is seeing Jesus more clearly. Some specific suggestions for seeing Jesus more clearly included:
  - Reading the Gospels through on a regular basis.
  - Doing the things which Jesus models and commands.
  - Practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, silence, and rest.
  - "Crawling back on the altar."

In which of these activities would you most like to (or most need to) engage? How might you begin doing it this week?