**DOTA 077 MEMORISATION 16**
**A DISCIPLE HAS CHRIST AS HIS LORD (ROMANS 12:1-2)**
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**(T)** Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In this fifth series God teaches that there are 5 important things a Christian disciple does: he makes Christ his Lord, he denies himself, he serves, he gives and he makes other people Christ's disciples. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE HAS CHRIST AS HIS LORD.

**(S) POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**
The new Bible that verse we will meditate and memorise is Romans 12:1-2. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Let me read the memorisation verse.

The memorisation verse is: Lordship. Romans 12:1-2. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

**(T) First. We show that Jesus Christ is our Lord when we make sacrifices.**
The passage begins with the words, "Therefore ….in view of God's mercy". It refers to everything written before in Romans chapter 1-11 in which we read about the utter sinfulness of all people, of the surpassing love of God in giving Christ as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of those who believe in him, and of God the Holy Spirit applying Christ's salvation to the life of the believer. This great work of God is summarised in the words, "God's mercy". Christians are exhorted to offer their bodies as living sacrifices as a response to God's mercy. Christians can offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God, because God has first offered his One and Only Son for the benefit of Christians! God never asks Christians to make a commitment unless he has first enabled Christians to make such a commitment! For example, God first loves us by giving Jesus Christ to die as a substitute in our place (Rom 5:8). Then God pours his kind of love in our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). Only after this God commands us to love him wholeheartedly and to love other people as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). Likewise, in this passage, God first sacrificed Jesus Christ for our benefit and thereafter he asks us to sacrifice ourselves for his cause.

**(S) Second. We show that Jesus Christ is our Lord when we live lives that are holy and pleasing to God.**
Does the word "body" here refer only to our physical nature? No. The "body" refers to our entire being or personality, the totality of which we are composed. The word "our body" is here the same as "ourselves". This is clearly seen from Romans 6:13, which says, "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather *offer yourselves* to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and *offer the parts of your body* to him as instruments of righteousness". The members of our body are an expression of ourselves, of who we are and how we live. The members of our body are only the instruments by which *we* carry out God's purposes. Before we die, our body and our soul form a unity and cannot be separated. Our "soul" is the breath of life or animating principle in us. It is the immaterial or invisible element of our human nature, especially in relationship to our body and our life on earth. It is the same as our "spirit", which is this same immaterial or invisible element of our human nature, but now especially in relationship to God.
**(T)** How can Christians offer their bodies as *living* sacrifices to God?
In the Old Testament, all sacrifices consisted only of animals that were only periodically killed and brought to the temple. In contrast, in the New Testament, the ultimate sacrifice was of a human, Jesus Christ, who was not only completely sinless, but also completely willing to die for our sins in our place. Because Jesus Christ died once for all to make atonement for our sins, we do not need to make atonement for our sins anymore. God does not ask us to *become sacrifices by dying*, but to *be sacrifices by living*! Moreover, God does not require that we live *periodically* for him, but instead live *continuously* for him! However, we can only sacrifice our living life to God when we possess the new born-again nature in Jesus Christ. Our old unregenerate nature does not want to die. It wants to enjoy sin and satisfy its selfish desires. It wants to "eat, drink and be merry" (1 Cor 15:32) and squeeze every possible human happiness out of life. Our old nature wants to live for itself! Our old nature is selfish and egocentric. However, when Jesus Christ comes to live in our hearts and lives, our old nature is nailed to the cross and should remain there. The Spirit of Jesus Christ creates in us a new nature, which we experience as being "born-again". Our new nature has the attitude of Jesus Christ and desires to live an unselfish life in

service of Jesus Christ and other people. *Offering our bodies as living sacrifices to God* expresses that God is the Source of our new born-again life. We have received this new life through his mercy and grace. This shows that Jesus Christ is our Lord, Master and King!

**(S)** How can Christians offer their bodies as *holy* sacrifices to God? The word "holy" means "to separate from evil" and "to dedicate to God". The work of the Holy Spirit in us causes us to hate sin in all its forms and also to commit ourselves to live a blameless life before God's eyes. Holiness is expressed in all the characteristics of God himself. For example. God's love is holy. It is absolutely devoid of any form of sin. It is not selfish, does not show favouritism and cannot be associated with sexual immorality. Likewise, God's righteousness is holy. It is absolutely devoid of any form of injustice. It is based on clearly revealed laws and values. It is absolutely fair and impartial. In the same way, God's truth, mercy, faithfulness, and other characteristics are all holy. Now, God desires that we Christians show this same kind of holiness in our lives. Through the Holy Spirit he enables us to live holy lives. *Offering our bodies as holy sacrifices to God* expresses that God is the Accomplisher of our new life. We are enabled to live this new life through his grace and power. This shows that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

**(T)** How can Christians offer their bodies as sacrifices *pleasing* to God? The word "well-pleasing" means "heartily welcomed by God" and "making God happy". Wherever we Christians go, we should ask ourselves the question, "Does this place and these people I associate with, please God?" "What would Jesus Christ have done in this situation?" The only way we can answer this question, is by often reading and studying the Bible. We should also pray that God would always guide us through the Bible and his Spirit to live a life that pleases him. *Offering our bodies as sacrifices pleasing to God* expresses that God is the Goal of our new life. We CAN, WANT TO and SHALL live our lives to the glory of God. This shows that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

**(S)** Why is offering our bodies to God called a "spiritual act of worship"? The word "spiritual" can best be translated with the words "right and proper". Thus, when we Christians offer ourselves to God as a living, holy and God-pleasing sacrifice, then we do what is right and proper in God's eyes! That is the real "spiritual" life of Christians. We Christians are "spiritual", not when we are very emotional or ecstatic, but when we offer our whole life as a sacrifice to God. We are "spiritual", not only during Christian worship services, but especially during every day of the week. This shows that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

**(T) Third. We show that Jesus Christ is our Lord when we do not conform to this world, but are transformed into his likeness.**

One. Say "no" to outward conformity to this world. The first part of Romans 12:2 can be translated, "Stop allowing yourself to be fashioned after the pattern of this evil age". Or "Do not allow this evil world to squeeze you into its mould". We Christians do not allow ourselves to be moulded, shaped or fashioned after the pattern of this evil age. We do not allow this evil world to squeeze us into its mould. True Christians avoid conformity to all evil influences: atheistic philosophies, false religions, sexual immorality, bad friends, degenerating discussions, dirty magazines, questionable activities, tempting clothes, extremist politics, experiments with drugs, extreme sports, etc. True Christians resist every evil influence. Outward conformity to the lifestyle and behaviour of other people could be a strong power that could suck us away from God into a lifestyle that displeases God. We no longer allow the attractions of the evil world or the wrong kind of peer-pressure to shape us. We stop speaking radical or offensive language. We stop singing or listening to obscene or offensive music. We stop reading filthy books and magazines. We stop wearing tempting clothes. We stop being involved in questionable activities. We stop associating on intimate terms with worldly companions.

Two. Say "yes" to inward transformation to God's will. The second part of Romans 12:2 can be translated, "Continue to let yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your mind." We Christians dedicate ourselves to the continual renewal of our minds. While conformity begins by following the *outward* fashions of people, transformation begins with the *inward* change or transformation of thoughts, motives and attitudes according to God's Word, the Bible. This happens when we submit ourselves to co-operating with God's Word and God's Spirit. Inward transformation that eventually expresses itself in outward change is the best way to live a lifestyle that pleases God.

**(S) Fourth. We show that Jesus Christ is our Lord when we know and obey God's will.**

The third part of Romans 12:2 says, "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." What are the conditions for knowing God's will?

There are 5 key conditions for discovering and walking in God's will.

One. Exert yourself to remain in a personal and intimate relationship with God. In John 15:5, Jesus says, "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." The main purpose of God's will is our relationship to God.

Two. Obey God's revealed sovereign will in the Bible. In Luke 6:46-49 Jesus teaches that we proof that he is our Lord when we put his words into practise.

Three. Surrender to God's unrevealed sovereign will as expressed in circumstances. In Romans 8:28 Paul assures us that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Four. Be transformed by renewing the mind. In Romans 12:2 Paul teaches that we must avoid certain things. We should no longer allow the attractions of the evil world or the wrong kind of peer-pressure to shape us. For example, we should stop speaking dirty or offensive language. We should stop singing or listening to obscene or offensive music. We should stop reading filthy books and magazines. We should stop wearing tempting clothes. We should stop being involved in questionable activities. We should stop associating on intimate terms with worldly companions. We should also do certain things. We should renew the thoughts of our mind and the attitudes of our heart by reading the Bible, obeying God's Spirit and having fellowship with Christians.
Five. Make self-sacrificial decisions. In Romans 12:1 Paul urges us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Instead of making the most of our rights, we seek the interests of other people. Instead of making a successful career at the expense of our family members, we commit ourselves to our family responsibilities. Instead of returning favours to the religious, the powerful and the well-connected people, we invite the poor, the handicapped and the oppressed into our lives (Luke 14:12-14).

**(T) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. The topic today is "Lordship" and the reference is Romans 12:1-2. Let us memorise the Bible verse together.
**(T+S)** Lordship. Romans 12:1-2. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.
**(S)** Lordship. Romans 12:1-2. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.
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**(S)** Lordship. Romans 12:1-2. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2.

**(T) POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.
Series "The gospel", verses 1-5.
**(S)** Nature of sin. Romans 3:23. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.
**(T)** Punishment of sin. Ecclesiastes 12:14. "For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:14.
**(S)** Atonement of sin. Romans 5:8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.
**(T)** Salvation is a gift. Ephesians 2:8-9. "For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast". Ephesians 2:8-9.
**(S)** Salvation by faith. John 1:12. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12.

**(T) POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.
Second. See the workbooks "Go and make disciples" and Internet on www etc.
Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to "Discipleship training on the air".