**“The Act of Service”**

**Romans 12:1-13**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Darryl Heisey, Hayden Bible Church, 8/3/25)**

What is your purpose in life? The Westminster Catechism said it is to “glorify (worship) God and enjoy Him forever.” Specifically, we were created to worship God through our acts of service to others, beginning with His body, the church. Jesus gifts us with the ability to help, He empowers us with His Spirit, He lays out the instructions in His Word, and He models with His own life how we are to go about our service (Phil. 2:1-11).

Today’s lesson comes in three parts. First, Pastor Darryl gave us an acrostic: **S-E-R-V-I-C-E**, to help us remember the vital parts of this act of worship. Second, we will look at the **WHO, WHAT, WHY,** and **HOW** of service. Finally, we will look at the specific instructions for how we are to serve listed in today’s scripture passage.

**S**- **S**eek to serve others (1 Peter 4:10).

**E**- **E**ncourage others (Heb. 10:24-25).

**R**- **R**eady to serve others (Gal. 6:2).

**V**- **V**igilant in word and deed (Gal. 6:10).

**I- I**nvaluable to meet the needs of others (Rom. 12:10-11).

**C**- **C**hrist at the center of all my actions (Col. 3:23-24).

**E**- **E**very deed unto the Lord (Col. 3:17).

**WHO** should we serve? All men, “especially to those who are in the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10). We are to serve “the least of these” (Matt. 25:35-40) because that is the same as serving Jesus Himself. Read Mark 10:45. There is no greater example of servanthood.

**WHAT** is in your service toolbox? My toolbox is full of tools to repair and to build. God provides the opportunities. God provides the gifting and the power. All He needs is a willing vessel: YOU! ((2 Tim. 3:15-17)

**WHY** should you serve? Because God says so! Whether our service is pounding nails or pounding someone on the back, we are to do it diligently, fervently, eagerly, and cheerfully (1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

**HOW** should you serve? Be in motion (Eph. 2:10). Just do it! (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 4:11-13)

And now to our text, Romans 12:1-13. These are the specific instructions for how we are to serve:

v. 1- Present your body willingly.

v. 2- Be transformed by Christ, not by the world. Then, and only then, will you be able to serve rightly, giving evidence of God’s good will in your life.

v. 3- Serve humbly.

v. 4-7- Don’t worry about Joe’s service and Joe’s gift. Just do the job God has given you and gifted you to do.

v. 8- Serve with diligence, mercy, and cheerfulness. Serve with compassion, not criticism.

v. 9- Serve with love. Abhor what is evil.

v. 10- Be devoted to one another in love and honor.

v. 11- Be diligent. Be fervent. Remember, YOU ARE SERVING THE LORD!

v. 12- Serve hopefully, persevering through the tough times. Be devoted to prayer. That is your connection to His power.

v. 13- Contribute to others’ needs and practice hospitality.

God has equipped all of us with at least one gift that is intended to be used in His service and for His glory. Our works of service are acts of worship to our Heavenly Father, AND a help and encouragement to the Body of Christ. Now go be His hands and feet!

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What is your giftedness? How are you using it now for Christ’s Kingdom?
2. Why do acts of service fill us with such joy?
3. Tools in my toolbox are used to repair and build. Give examples of how this applies to people and relationships.
4. Pastor Darryl said that our service should be “in motion.” What did he mean by that?
5. How do we keep Christ at the center of all our acts of service?

**“Take My Life, and Let It Be” (Havergal)**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart; it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.