

About 3 years ago, my life changed forever. Like many Christians who were born at the doorstep of the church, I considered myself a "good Christian." I did all the right things and I believed all the right things. I read my Bible regularly, I prayed everyday and especially before each meal. I was actively involved in my youth group, AWANA and Bible study. You name something in the church and I was there. I was even the high school representative chosen to be part of the Evangelism and Discipleship committee at our church. I was the son of a father who was actively involved in missions and church work, and a mother who ran the Mother's Club at church. I had a good family, with good parents. I was a good Christian. I did all the right things. I never rebelled. In fact, I even wanted to do all those things. But why was I doing them? Just because I was supposed to? Somehow that didn't seem like enough. But, it was what I lived with and how I kept going. Not too motivating huh?

But like I said before, about three years ago, my life changed forever. No, it was not because of some huge tragedy, or death in the family or winning the lottery. Rather, it was because of this passage (connected with the entire book of Romans). For the first time, boldly staring me in the face was the extent of my sinfulness. (Romans 3). I saw that I was totally incapable of even seeking after God (Romans 3:9-13) let alone doing anything to gain salvation (Romans 3:20). Then I saw the gracious work of the Jesus Christ, doing what He didn't have to do in saving me from death. (Romans 3:21-26). I saw that my faith itself was a gift of God and I did nothing to deserve it (Romans 9). I saw that the only way to respond to such wonderful news was to live all of my life as a slave to righteousness (Romans 6:15-23) and a sacrifice of worship (Romans 12:1-2). All the sudden I didn't serve God because I had to, but because I desperately wanted to! It was not as if I didn't know and believe these things already. I just saw them fresh for the first time.

In short, I finally saw how much I owe God for not only my existence, but also my salvation and everything in my life, down to my last breath. Only then, was I able to serve God with a totally willing heart.

John Calvin sums up my thoughts more clearly...

***"Until men really apprehend how much they owe to the mercy of God, they will never with a right feeling worship him nor be effectually stimulated to fear and obey him."***

- ✧ Throughout the week look over the following verses and ask God to give you a fresh perspective on your life and "how much we owe to the mercy of God." May God use this awesome book to motivate you to "live your whole life as a sacrifice of worship!"
- ✧ Monday:
  - ✧ Romans 1:28-32 -
  - ✧ Romans 3: 9-13 -
- ✧ Tuesday
  - ✧ Romans 3:20-26 -
  - ✧ Romans 5:6-12 -
- ✧ Wednesday
  - ✧ Romans 6:15-23 -
- ✧ Thursday
  - ✧ Romans 8 -
- ✧ Friday
  - ✧ Romans 12 -