

From the Minister

You will have seen, no doubt, the way in which the American election is being run. With both Trump and Biden pointing the fingers at each other, and giving all sorts of reasons why they are not suitable to be president. The focus is very much on them, and what they can or can't do.

In contrast, during his only inaugural address as president, John F. Kennedy issued this challenge to- Americans:

"Ask not what your country can do for you;  
ask what you can do for your country."

It was a renewed call for them to surrender their lives in sacrifice and service to others. His words especially inspired the sons and daughters of men and women who had served their country in war.

His meaning was clear: what their parents purchased, often with their very lives, must now be protected by peaceful means. An army of volunteers arose to answer that call, and through the decades they have accomplished an immeasurable amount of humanitarian work around the globe.

Centuries earlier, the apostle Paul issued a similar call to Christians in the opening verses of Romans 12. (see Romans 12:1-8)

Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,  
which is your reasonable service.

Here he urges us to give our bodies as "living sacrifices" in service to the One who paid with His life for our sins. This spiritual sacrifice must be more than mere words; it must be an investment of our lives in the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of others.

Best of all, our serving can be done right where we are.

Let's use these verses as our mantra for August, and why not then join together to look at more from Romans in September.

Rev Rick