

The image features a background of ancient Roman ruins, including a large, circular stone structure and various rectangular blocks. A semi-transparent cross-shaped overlay is present on the right side of the image. The word "ROMANS" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

# ROMANS

## **Another Transition/Hingepoint ... (Romans 12-15)**

- 1. Romans 1-3: God's glory – Everyone falls short and lives in sin.**
  - doctrine of *Total Depravity*.
- 2. Romans 4-8: God's love - In Christ God declares us righteous and is preparing us for heaven, even through suffering.**
  - doctrines of *Justification & Sanctification*.
- 3. Romans 9-11: God's sovereignty and my responsibility.**
  - doctrines of *Election & Free will*.
- 4. Romans 12-15: Transformed Relationships.**
  - what happens when I give God all of me.

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4. Romans 12-15: **Transformed Relationships.**
  - what happens when I give God all of me.

God's Mercies

Rom. 12:1

My New Life

**12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers & sisters, in view of God's mercy, ...**

Romans 12

**Key: God's mercy transforms how I understand my life ...**

**☐ In my heart:**

- I know that I have willfully sinned and fall short God's holiness, invoking His wrath.
- I know that God has forgiven me in Jesus, making me righteous (justified) through Christ's death for me.
- I know that the Holy Spirit possesses me and is training me to be holy (sanctifying me) through His power.
- I know that before I was even born God chose (elected) me to know Him through His grace in Jesus.

**This knowledge in my heart transforms how see God; how I see myself; how I see others; how I see the world; how I see suffering; how I see the future ... and how I respond to everything.**

**This Week: My Transformed Relationship With God. (Rom. 12:1-2)**

... Embracing with my will what my heart has discovered.

**12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,**

- *to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*
- *<sup>2</sup> Do not conform 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.*

## My New Relationship With God.

### 1. Because I live in God's mercy, I am no longer afraid.

Mercy, not fear, is how I understand my life ...

- *I am not afraid because* I am forgiven, not condemned.
- *I am not afraid because* the Holy Spirit possesses me, teaches me & intercedes for me.
- *I not afraid because* nothing can separate me from the love of God in Jesus.
- *I am not afraid because* God has chosen me to know Him.

**I live in supernatural security as God's adopted child.**

Because of God's mercy, our motivation in Jesus is gratitude and grace – we are loved by God and can *never lose* the salvation that He has provided us, nor our place in His love ...

If a Christian *could* lose their salvation, then surely the overriding motivation for obedience would be *fear* ... (and) if a Christian believes it is possible to come back under God's condemnation their fear will be immense, and fear-based obedience (afraid of God's punishment) can never lead to the transformed living of gratitude-based obedience.

Tim Keller

## My New Relationship With God.

### 1. Because I live in God's mercy, I am no longer afraid.

Mercy, not fear, is how I understand my life ...

#### God's mercy and security are what motivate me:

- a. So I do not become tired & weary of following Jesus.
  - I do not become indifferent to holiness.
- b. So I am no longer afraid to admit my failures to God and others.
  - repentance is sweet, not bitter.
- c. So I no longer worry that God is punishing me when life gets hard.
  - suffering becomes different, because God suffers with me in my pain.

2. **Because I live in God's mercy, I offer my whole life to Him.**

... because it's the only response that makes any sense!

12 ... **in view of God's mercy,**

- *offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy & pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

**Note:** two types of O.T. offerings Paul is referring to:

a. sin offering – blood of the animal was poured on the altar.

- covering my sin. (Jesus)

b. whole offering – entire animal was consumed on the altar.

- representing all of me. (my life)

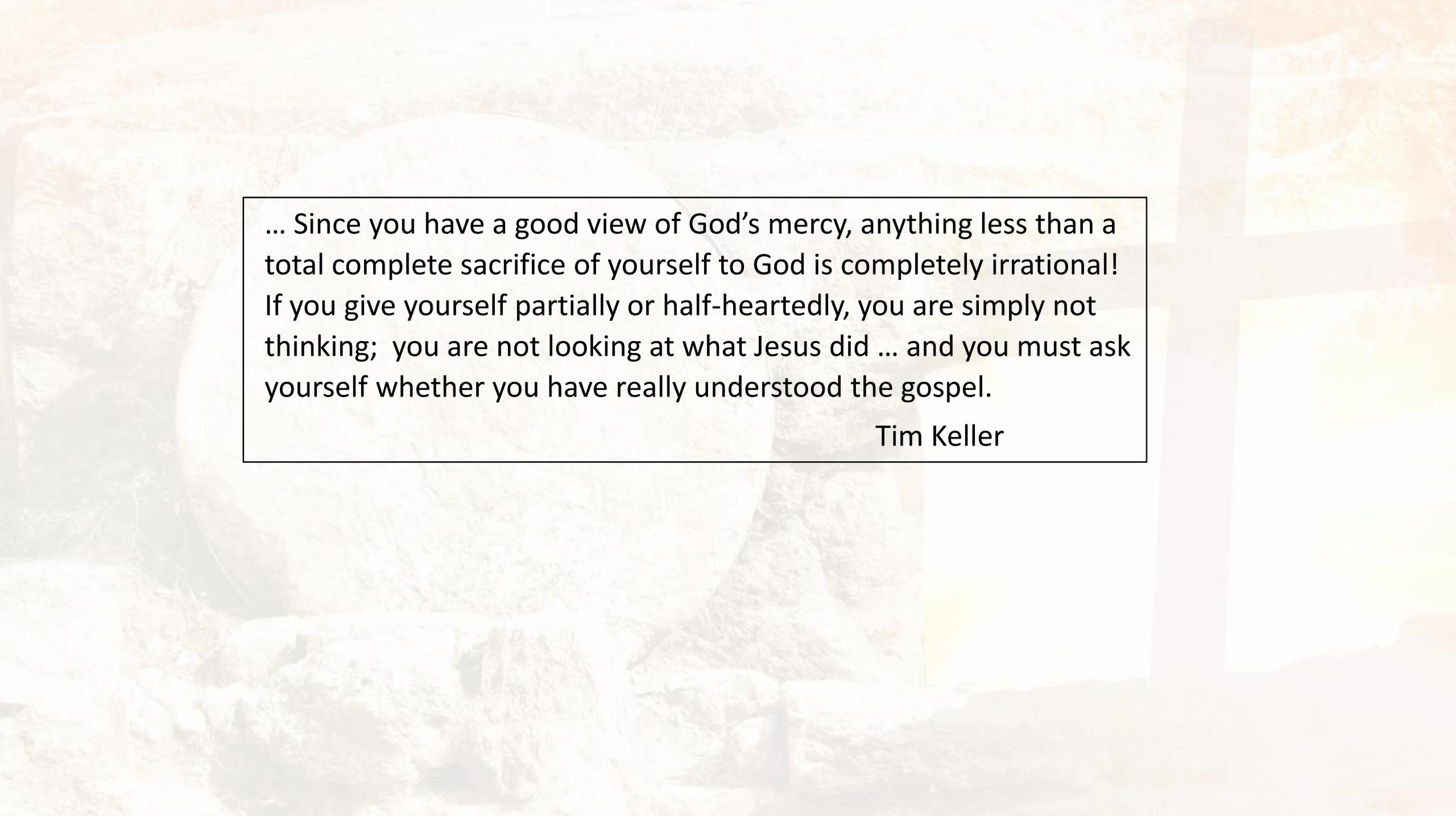
2. **Because I live in God's mercy, I offer my whole life to Him.**

... because it's the only response that makes any sense!

**12 ... in view of God's mercy ... this is your spiritual act of worship.**

- "spiritual act" - Gk. - **logiken**
  - reasonable; logical; making sense.

**literally:** ... *to offer your bodies as a living, holy sacrifice to God – well pleasing, **which is the logical expression of your worship.***



... Since you have a good view of God's mercy, anything less than a total complete sacrifice of yourself to God is completely irrational! If you give yourself partially or half-heartedly, you are simply not thinking; you are not looking at what Jesus did ... and you must ask yourself whether you have really understood the gospel.

Tim Keller

3. **Because I live in God's mercy, I reject conforming for transforming.**

... the change in me now happens from the inside-out!

**12 Therefore ... in view of God's mercy ...**

- <sup>2</sup> Do not **conform** to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind.
- **“conform”** - Gk. root - ***schema***
  - to be molded according to a pattern.
- **“transform”** - Gk. root - ***meta - morphoo***
  - to be changed from one thing to another.
  - a change that happens from the inside-out.

3. **Because I live in God's mercy, I reject conforming for transforming.**

... the change in me now happens from the inside-out!

***12 Therefore ... in view of God's mercy ...***

- *<sup>2</sup> Do not conform 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.***

***<sup>11</sup> No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. <sup>12</sup> And because we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us ...***

***<sup>14</sup> People who aren't spiritual can't receive the truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means ... <sup>16</sup> we, however, do understand these things because we have the mind of Christ.***

1 Corinthians 2

**Concl: Transformation is the measurement of the Christian.**

... of this there can be no debate.

**Some questions I Christian should regularly ask:**

1. What *are* God's mercies to me? (His specific acts & deeds)
  - the BIG ones; the little ones; the forgotten ones; the private ones; the promised & coming ones.
2. What am I practicing that is giving God room to transform me?
  - the practices of commission? the practices of omission?
3. Where am I struggling to offer my life as a sacrifice to God?
  - What are my spiritually vulnerable places?
  - Are there other altars I am tempted to offer my life upon?
  - How is the world trying to squeeze me into it's mold?
4. If I knew that I'd be in heaven next year, what would I change?