

The background features a photograph of ancient stone ruins. A large, circular opening is visible in the upper left portion of the image. A semi-transparent cross shape is overlaid on the right side of the image. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by golden-yellow and brown tones.

ROMANS

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

1. Romans 1-3: **God's glory.**
 - doctrine of *Total Depravity*.
2. Romans 4-8: **God's love.**
 - 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.

God's Mercies

Rom. 12:1

My New Life

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

Romans 12

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

... I live in His *mercy*, not in my *fear*.

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

- ***Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.***
- ² ***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 Transformed Relationship With God. (Rom. 12:1-2)

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

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

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

2. Because I live in God's mercy, my whole life is an offering to Him.

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

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice to God – this is your rational response of worship.

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

- the forming of my life happens from the inside-out!

² 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 & approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing & perfect will.

This Week: My Transformed Relationship With The Church. (Rom. 12:3-8)

... Understanding my role & responsibility in God's New Community.

• **Question: How does our world see the Church?**

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

This Week: My Transformed Relationship With The Church. (Rom. 12:3-8)

... Understanding my role & responsibility in God's New Community.

- **Question: How does our world see the Church?**

Answer: an Organization ... positively or negatively, people who have not responded to Jesus see the Church as a group of individuals gathered together for religious reasons.

a Business ... in North America, especially, churches are often seen & measured by their growth in attendance, buildings, budget and consumer tendencies.

Key Question: How does God see the Church?

1. an Organism, *not* an organization.

- a living entity.
- empowered with supernatural abilities through the Holy Spirit.
- expressing His Son, Jesus, to the world.
- led by Jesus, and accountable to Him.

The Church is not a mere organization but a living organism. It has life *because* it is the Body of Christ ... (and) through His Body, Jesus wants to express Himself to the world.

T.H. Epp

Key Question: How does God see the Church?

1. an Organism, *not* an organization.
2. A Body, not a business.
 - a living, breathing, dynamic & beautiful expression of Jesus Christ.
 - a physical representation of Jesus, where every part of His Body moves in harmony as he directs them.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12

***12** Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14** Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many ...*

***27** Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body ... (and) God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 Corinthians 12

My Transformed Relationship With The Church.

1. I understand the church with God's mind, not the world's.
... a living organism, powerfully expressing Jesus Christ to the world.

*² 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.*

Romans 12

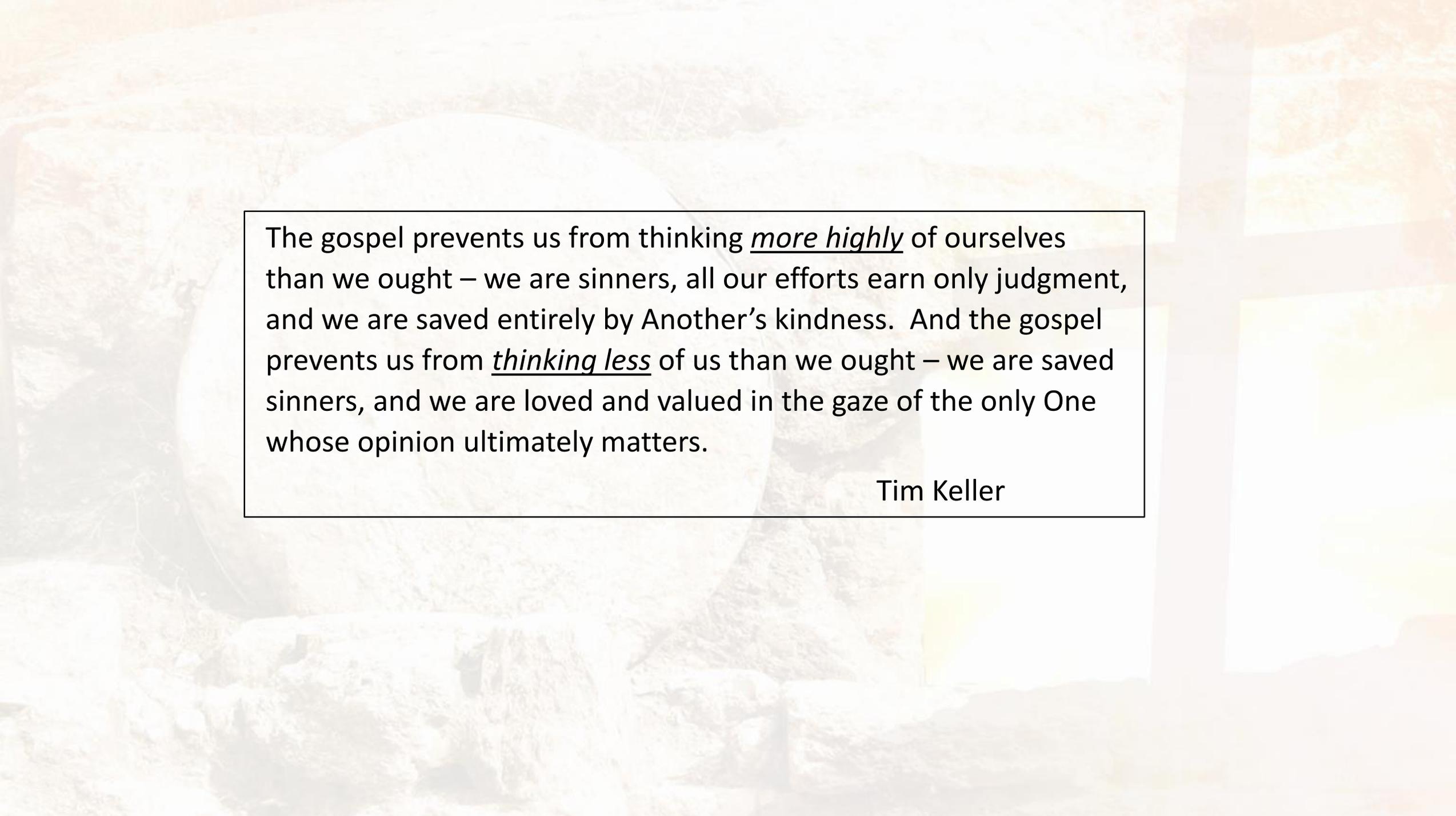
My Transformed Relationship With The Church.

2. I understand who I am in Christ ... no more & no less.

- a sinner – saved entirely by God’s kindness & mercy in Jesus.
- a new person – made righteous through Christ, adopted by God, possessed by the Holy Spirit, and called to follow Jesus.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Romans 12



The gospel prevents us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought – we are sinners, all our efforts earn only judgment, and we are saved entirely by Another’s kindness. And the gospel prevents us from thinking less of us than we ought – we are saved sinners, and we are loved and valued in the gaze of the only One whose opinion ultimately matters.

Tim Keller

My Transformed Relationship With The Church.

3. I actively use the supernatural gift God chose uniquely for me ... the one that identifies where I serve in Jesus' Body.

- because I believe that God knows what He's doing ... He knows better than I what will bring meaning to me and joy to others.
- because I am learning that I cannot live a transformed life on my own ... and that independence conforms me to the world.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12

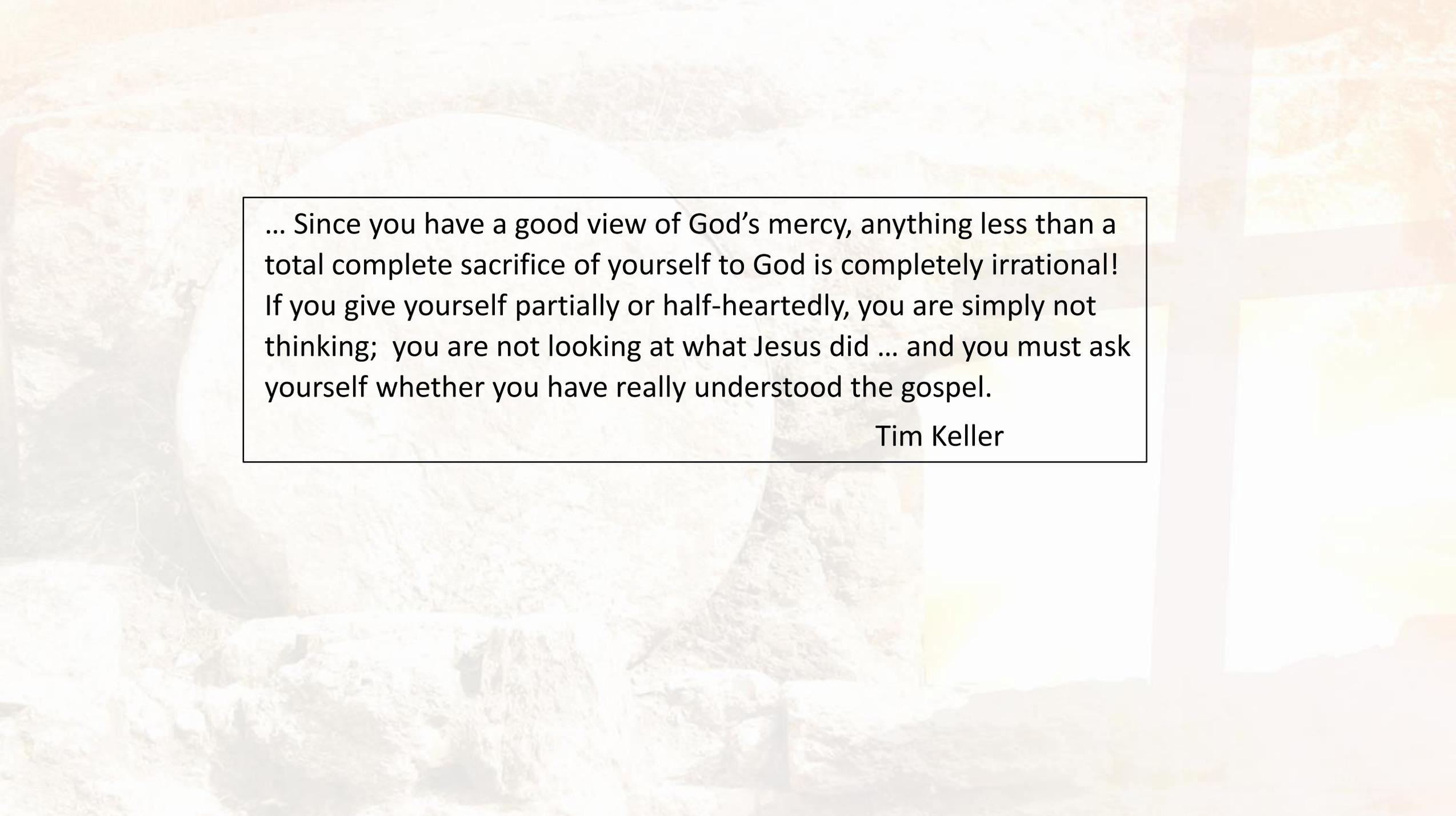
My Transformed Relationship With The Church.

4. I do my best ... because it's my logical expression of worship.

- why would I give God less than my best?
- why would I love casually, and handicap the Body of Christ?

*⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. **So if God has given you the ability** to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them!



... 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