

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy and pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable worship.

<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

### A Living Sacrifice

#### ➤ Beware of a Debtor's Ethic

- our response to God's mercy toward us is never an attempt to repay God
- *"good deeds do not pay back grace; they borrow more grace"* (J. Piper)

### A Living Sacrifice

#### A. The presentation of our entire persons as a sacrifice

- a "sacrifice" communicates belonging wholly to God; we are not our own
- "bodies" – refers to the entire person, with a special emphasis on our interaction with the world

### A Living Sacrifice

#### A. The presentation of our entire persons as a sacrifice

- (1) "living" – perpetual, lasting, never neglected
- (2) "holy" – set apart exclusively for God
- (3) "pleasing" – desired and accepted by God

### A Living Sacrifice

#### B. This offering of ourselves is our "true worship"

- it is consistent with a proper understanding of God's grace in Christ
- it is genuine in its inwardness and outwardness

## A Living Sacrifice

B. This offering of ourselves is our “true worship”

*“The worship that is consonant with the truth of the gospel, is indeed nothing less than the offering of one’s whole self in the course of one’s concrete living, in one’s inward thoughts, feeling and aspirations, but also in one’s words and deeds.”*

(C.E.B Cranfield)