

# Motivation to Sacrifice Self --- Romans 12:1

May 3, 2020

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

## Introduction

There are three motivations that Paul mentions in this verse that drive us, that spur us on to offering ourselves a living sacrifice to God: God's grace; our desire to please Him; and worship.

One of my favorite examples of grace found in the Old Testament involves Joseph. Joseph is one of my heroes for a number of reasons. He is such an example of diligence, perseverance, and integrity. But probably one of his greatest virtues is his dedication to his family even though his brothers severely mistreated him. At the end of all his abused life, he takes care of his brothers. He refuses to be bitter towards them. Joseph is a phenomenal example of compassion and grace.

If anyone had a right to be bitter, certainly Joseph is among the top of the list. His brothers verbally and emotionally abused him. They physically abused him by throwing him into a pit. They sold him into slavery as a young man.

In slavery, he was falsely accused of rape and went to prison for a crime he did not commit. He was ripped away from his father and his brother, Benjamin, whom he dearly loved. Even when he saw his brothers again, they were still lying and telling Joseph that they had a brother who was dead.

But when all is said and done, Joseph showed grace to his brothers. Joseph brought them down to Egypt and gave them land in the best area that Egypt had to offer. He fed them and provided for them. His love was not just a warm fuzzy. His love for them was demonstrated in his attitude and actions. He is an example of what Colossians 3:12 says, *“put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”*

God has demonstrated to you His compassion, His kindness, His humility and gentleness and patience. He has forgiven you through His Son.

There is a greater example of grace than Joseph. Jesus, the Son of God, died in your place even while you hated Him and were His enemies. In our study of Romans 11, we saw that Paul mentions “mercy” four times in the last portion of the chapter.

There are many great Bible texts that talk about mercy. One of the most profound passages in my opinion is when Moses asked to be shown God's glory and God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock and covered him with His hand while His glory passed by, God said in Exodus 33:19, *“I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”*

God declares that at the very heart of His being, He is a merciful God.

Exodus 34:6-7 *Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”*

The very essence of God is mercy, grace, compassion and lovingkindness.

Ephesians 2:4-5 *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) . . . .”*

In our text this morning, Paul writes in Romans 12:1, *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”*

In light of the mercies of God, in light of all that Paul has written in the first eleven chapters, because of the grace of God, present your bodies a living sacrifice. We have tremendous motivations to deny ourselves, pick up our crosses and follow Christ. We will consider these inducements this morning.

## Review

We saw last week we focused on what it means to present yourself a living sacrifice. We considered that a unique truth about the Christian life is that we must die in order to live. We find this teaching in many places in the Bible—

particularly in the New Testament—but the basic, foundational statement is by Jesus, who said in Luke 9:23-24, *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life daily for me will save it.”* Taking up one's cross is a picture of death to self. It is Jesus' declaration of losing your life.

In Paul's culture, a sacrifice was always an animal that was presented to a priest to be killed. So what Paul is saying in the statement, “present your bodies a living sacrifice” is that the Christian life begins by offering yourself to God for death. By offering yourself to God as a sacrifice, you are both worshipping Him and you are enabled to live for Him.

This foundational truth teaches that you are not your own but rather you belong to Jesus; that is, if you are truly a Christian. Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, *“ . . . do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”*

We saw that Paul conveys an amazing picture concerning this presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice. A sacrifice was something offered to God by a priest. A priest would take a sacrifice offered by a worshiper, carry it to the altar, kill it, pour out the blood, and then burn the victim's body. In that procedure, the priest and the offering were two separate entities. But in this incredible image of what it is to live a biblical, Christian life, Paul shows that the priest and the offering are the same. You are the priest who presents the offering, and the offering you present is your own body. Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice . . . you sacrifice self.

Furthermore, we considered that we offer our bodies a holy sacrifice. We considered offering up our eyes as a living sacrifice (what we look at concerning the lust of the eyes), our tongues as a living sacrifice (our speech, what we talk about), our hands and our feet (where we go and what we do).

Romans 8:12-13 *So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

It is by the enabling of the Holy Spirit that we offer our bodies a living sacrifice. The Spirit use His Word in the process of self-sacrifice. We will see in the next

verse sacrifice involves a daily renewing of our minds. So we spent some time considering Paul's declaration to offer our bodies a living sacrifice.

This morning I want to consider what Paul says concerning the motivations that energize us to daily strive to offer our bodies a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

I prefer this above translation because it highlights three motivations that you and I have as believers to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God: first, God's Grace; second, A Desire to be Pleasing to God; and third, Worship.

Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:31, *"I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."* Why did Paul daily die in the service of Christ? In light of God's grace to Paul, because Paul desired to please Christ; thus, sacrifice of self was part of his daily worship of the Lord. The same is true for us.

### God's Grace

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies,*  
Romans 12:1a

The normal pattern of thinking in man concerning motivation to righteous living tends to be self-serving. For example, for most people, the reason to live a moral life is because you are going to get in trouble if you don't, or because it is good for you. But this is not the motivation that Paul speaks of here.

Why should you present your body as living sacrifices? The first answer is simple: *"In view of [or because of] God's mercies."* In the Greek text, the word mercy is plural not singular, so the reason for giving yourself to God is literally because of the abundant mercies that God has lavished upon you. This is not an attempt to somehow pay God back, but it originates out of a heart full of thanksgiving.

John Calvin wrote, "Paul's entreaty teaches us that men will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be roused to fear and obey him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they are indebted to His mercy."

I told you at the beginning of our study of Romans that the subject of grace, which is closely related to the doctrine of mercy, is at the heart of Paul's letter to

the Romans. Grace undergirds the book of Romans. Paul mentions grace in his opening remarks and carries that theme all the way through to the last chapter.

*Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;*

*Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand . . . .*

*Romans 5:20-21 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Grace is a major theme in Romans. There are many other verses in this letter that I could mention. In fact, Paul mentions the word “grace” 24 times in the book of Romans. That number is far more than any other book of the New Testament.

I have told you that the Apostle Paul was very keen on the doctrine of grace. Paul's thoughts were never far from grace. He understood his own rebellion against God, how he had persecuted the church of Christ, he understood his legalistic upbringing. But as believer, he had experienced God's grace towards him in the person of Jesus Christ. Paul knew the Scriptures since he was a boy, but he had never put all the pieces together until he was confronted by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.

From then on, his whole world was turned upside down. After being confronted by Christ on the road to Damascus, he spent 14 years in solitude as the Holy Spirit walked him through the Old Testament Scriptures teaching him about grace in action. All of the scriptural training he previously had was ignited.

Grace so infiltrated the depths of his soul that he would write in 1 Corinthians 15:10, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”* Three times in one verse Paul points to grace as that which undergirds and supports his life and his very being.

The word “grace” points to the actions of God. I have told you before that in order to even begin to gain an understanding of this word you need to

simultaneously hold a variety of teachings of Scripture in mind and allow the doctrine of grace to leap out at you. In order to understand grace fully, you must keep in mind the depths of your depravity, the sinfulness of sin. Along with keeping in mind your utter depravity, you must consider the holiness of God—this transcendent, separate Being whom we call God. While considering His supreme holiness, we must not neglect the justice of God and the eternal sentence of hell that all men deserve. While not neglecting His justice, we are to maintain a steady view of God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ.

As well as maintaining a steady view of God becoming man, consider His infinite suffering on the cross as a substitute for you. Along with considering Christ's substitutionary work for you, focus your thoughts on election and the giving of faith and salvation. While focusing your thoughts on your election-faith-salvation, wonder at the indwelling Holy Spirit that God gives you while on earth. Along with the wonder of the Holy Spirit's indwelling be awed over how He brings you into the church as a family and gives you the Word of God to direct you every day of your life. Then after musing on all of these mind-boggling truths, top all of them off with the doctrine of heaven and an eternal inheritance in the very presence God.

Now finally write “GRACE” over all of that, and you only begin to understand the action of God's grace towards you. You can then go back and dissect each one of those doctrines and be amazed at each part. We come up with little sayings that sort of help us get pushed in the right direction in considering grace, i.e. the acronym: Grace stands for God's Riches At Christ's Expense. That is good as far as it goes; but, to really begin to understand grace, we need to hold a variety of doctrines in mind simultaneously, as I said, justice, holiness, man's depravity, incarnation, substitution, reconciliation, election and heaven just to name a few.

Jesus made it clear that He came to seek and save that which was lost. The ultimate expression of grace was His death on the cross. The Gospel of Christ is centered on the grace of God.

*Titus 3:5-7 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Sadly for the most part, grace has ceased to be amazing in our modern Christianity because the Church has ceased to preach the depravity of man and the eternal justice of God. Grace can only be understood in light of the

helplessness and hopelessness of man. Grace means giving an eternal, infinite gift to one who is utterly unworthy or undeserving. Martin Lloyd Jones writes, "There is no more wonderful word than *grace*. It is not merely a free gift, but a free gift to those who are without hope and without God and without merit."

Romans 3:23 states, ". . . *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" I came across one way that the term translated "fall short" was used in ancient times. I told you before that falling short refers to "missing the mark" as with a bow and arrow, and that is a true usage. Man not only misses the bulls eye, but he does not even hit the target.

Another usage of "fall short" was within the financial market. It was used to describe a person whose debts exceeded his assets and he had to file bankruptcy. He fell short of what he owed. Man owes God glory. What is right in our existence is to be like the perfect and holy angels who ascribe glory to God constantly. God is worthy of glory. All of who He is draws glory. Instead of glorifying God, man suppresses God.

Romans 1:21 *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Man misses the mark, he falls short. Because of his sin, he does not glorify God. James Boice writes, "Until we know that in God's sight there is no difference between us and even the wildest profligate, we cannot be saved. Nor can we appreciate the nature and extent of the grace needed to rescue us from our dilemma."

In contrast to man's total depravity, God extends grace. One of the greatest results of grace will be that a whole group of human beings will be in heaven forever. They will forever be to the praise of the glory of God's grace. Most humans will be in hell suffering the results of their rebellion. But by God's grace and by the unfathomable action of Christ's death on behalf of sinful man, and by the imputation of Christ's perfect life upon them, these humans are made perfect, fit for heaven and the perfect righteous presence of God Almighty.

Ephesians 1:5-8 *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.*

Ephesians 1:11-14 . . . *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

The grace of God manifest in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ will be our theme for all of eternity. The grace of God demonstrated in the person of Jesus motivates, compels us. *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercies—because of God’s many graces—we are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice.* The next motivation is a desire to be pleasing to God.

### A Desire to be Pleasing to God

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercies,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God*  
Romans 12:1a,b

If you are a believer, you should have a desire to be pleasing to God. There is a wrong teaching going around today by a well-known pastor concerning pleasing God and it goes something like this, “I do not need to strive to please God because Christ pleased God as my substitute and I am in Christ.” That may sound right from a cursory consideration but it does not square with Scripture.

It is true that apart from Christ's work on the cross we cannot please God. The Scripture is clear that apart from faith in Christ you cannot please God. At the same time having become a believer, God is pleased as you strive to obey Him and walk in righteousness. This truth is expressed in many passages of Scripture that exhort us to be pleasing to God.

Concerning whether to marry or remain single, Paul writes this in 1 Corinthians 7:32 *“But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; . . . .”*

Ephesians 5:8-10 is another passage which exhorts us to please God. It says *“ . . . for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”*

Referring to a financial gift that he received, Paul writes in Philippians 4:18, *“But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply*

*supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.”*

The following verses strongly encourage, even command, us to be pleasing to God—

*Colossians 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.*

*2 Corinthians 5:9 Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.*

*1 John 3:21-22 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*

So it is well and right that you as a believer strive to be pleasing to God. Do you desire to please God? Is that a foundational motivation and goal of your life? In light of His amazing grace and because I want to please Him, I offer up all of who I am as a living sacrifice.

How do we please God?

First, we are to set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

*Psalm 104:34 Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.*

*Romans 8:5-8 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Do you have your mind set on the things of the Spirit? To set your mind on the things of the Spirit means that you set your mind on the Word of God. This is one way that we are pleasing to God.

Second, we are to grow in living a life according to His will. In Colossians 1:10-12, Paul prayed that the Colossians may, “. . . walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, <sup>21</sup>equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Hebrews 13:15-16 *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. <sup>16</sup>And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Third, we are to speak the clear Gospel. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 says, “*but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.*”

You have been entrusted to speak the Gospel to others. This is pleasing to God.

Obviously, in our text, we know that offering ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice pleases Him. So we are motivated by God's grace demonstrated in Christ. We are motivated by a desire to please Him. Lastly, we are motivated to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice as an act of worship.

### Worship

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship*

Romans 12:1a-c

We focused on the subject of worship just a few weeks ago, so I want to simply remind you of some thoughts that we considered. The Westminster Catechism states that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Paul

had a singular focus on the Lord Jesus Christ so that the chief goal in his life was to praise and glorify Christ. The overall purpose of the Church is to glorify God, to praise Christ and to worship Him. The first priority of your life should be to glorify God and worship Him. Your first priority is not your own well-being or your own comfort or to further your own agendas. We are here to glorify Jesus Christ and enjoy Him.

I told you last week that we tend to define worship narrowly with singing or having an emotional response to a song. But Paul defines worship here as the ongoing death of self—offering up ourselves as a living sacrifice. I gave you the following definition of worship: “worship is the heart cry of the soul to God expressing the supreme value of God and love for God as it meditates on the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and all that God has revealed of Himself through His Word and through creation.” So as we offer up ourselves as a living sacrifice, it is the heart cry of our soul expressing to God His supreme value to us.

Worship is a way of life rather than an event. Worship cannot be isolated to just one segment of our lives. Real worship is the overflow of a life that is saturated with the person of the Triune God, the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Praise and worship boil over from a life that is consumed with God. The sacrificing of ourselves is worship.

Last week, I gave a basic definition of what it means to sacrifice self: “offering yourself a living sacrifice means putting your personal desires behind you in order to put the desires of God and the needs of other people first.” So as we sacrifice our desires in order to please God and focus on the needs of others, we are worshipping God.

When we talk about worship, we are referring to something that we give to God. We tend to think of worship in terms of what it does for us. **But, we are not the issue.** Christ is the focus. The essence of worship is a consuming, selfless desire to give to God praise and adoration, and Paul adds that we worship as we offer ourselves a living sacrifice.

True worship involves every area of our lives. We are to honor and praise God in everything. How we live and how we think are vital to our worship of God. Listening to the word of God preached is worship. Giving your money to God is worship. All of what you do and think reflects a life consumed with who God is.

William Barclay writes, “True worship is the offering to God of one’s body and all that one does every day with it. Real worship is not the offering to God of a

liturgy, however noble, and a ritual, however magnificent. Real worship is the offering of everyday life to him—not something carried out in a church, but something which sees the whole world as the temple of the living God. We might say: 'I am going to church to worship God'; but we should also be able to say: 'I am going to the factory, the shop, the office, the school, the garage, the garden, to worship God.' ”

So Paul instructs us that we are driven to sacrifice our bodies as a living sacrifice in light of God's grace; in order to please Him and as an act of worship.

## Conclusion

I love to hear the account of how God worked in the life of John Newton. John Newton was an English clergyman who lived from 1725 to 1807. He had a wide and effective ministry. He is best known to us for his hymns, one being “Amazing Grace.” Newton was raised in a Christian home and was taught the Bible and memorized verses growing up. But his mother died when he was only six years old, and he was sent to live with a relative who mocked Christianity.

One day at an early age, Newton left home and joined the British Navy as an apprentice seaman. He was wild and lived an exceedingly immoral life. He gained a reputation of being able to swear for two hours without repeating himself. Eventually he deserted the navy off the coast of Africa. In his memoirs he wrote that he went to Africa for one reason only and that was, “that I might sin my fill.”

In Africa, he fell in with a Portuguese slave-trader. He was cruelly treated in this slave-trader's home. This man often went away on slaving expeditions, and when he was gone the person left in charge was the trader's African wife, the chief woman of his harem. The woman hated all white men, and she took out her hatred on Newton.

Newton wrote that for months he was forced to eat his food from the ground like a dog and he was beaten without mercy if he touched it with his hands. For a time he was actually placed in chains. Newton became weak and emaciated, but was able to escape and made his way through the jungle. When he finally reached the sea, he boarded a British merchant ship making its way up the coast to England.

When the captain of the ship, learned that the Newton knew something about navigation as a result of his time in the British Navy, he made him ship's mate. Even then, Newton fell into trouble. One day, when the captain was ashore,

Newton broke out the ship's supply of rum and got the crew drunk. He was so drunk himself that when the captain returned and struck him in the head, Newton fell overboard and would have drowned if one of the sailors had not grabbed him and hauled him back on deck in the nick of time.

Near the end of the voyage, as they were approaching Scotland, the ship ran into bad weather and was blown off course. Water poured in and the ship began to sink. Newton was sent down into the lower deck to pump water. The storm lasted for days. Newton was terrified. He was sure that the ship would sink and he would drown. But there in the hold of the ship, as he pumped water, desperately attempting to save his life, God brought to his mind Bible verses he had learned in his home as a child.

Newton was convicted of his sin and of God's righteousness given as a gift through faith in Jesus. The way of salvation suddenly became very clear to him. He was born again and was transformed. Later, when the storm had passed and he was again in England, Newton began to study theology and eventually became a distinguished preacher. He wrote these words:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.  
Through many dangers, toils and snare, I have already come.  
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Newton was a great preacher of grace. He had learned that grace was solely from God, apart from any human effort. He deserved nothing but God's wrath, but he found grace through the person of Jesus Christ.

Grace involves giving a gift to one who deserves the exact opposite. In our case, God gives us:

- perfect righteousness, when apart from Christ's payment on the cross, we are utterly depraved.
- adoption when we deserve repulsion.
- freedom, when, apart from Him, we are in bondage.
- love, when we deserve His wrath.
- the gift of eternal life when we deserve eternal death, or what Revelation calls, "the second death."
- heaven when we deserve hell.
- innocent status in Christ, when in ourselves, we are guilty.

*2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*

It is this grace that drives us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, that pleases God, and is an expression of our worship to Him.