



**Focus Text: Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**Pastoral Reflection by Rev. J. George Reed, Executive Director, NC Council of Churches**

Much of the book of Romans is given over to some pretty heavy theological work. What is the meaning of God's righteousness? Where does Israel fit into this? What about justification by faith? What happens to the Mosaic law? What role does grace play? Heavy questions facing the newly developing church in the First Century.

**Key Quote**

The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen. Together, our vision widens and strength is renewed.

*Mark Morrison-Reed*