

Reading from the Letters Romans 12: 1 – 3 (The Message)

P.G. So here's what I want you to do, God helping you:

Deb: Take your everyday, ordinary life—
 your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—
 and place it before God as an offering...

P.G. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Deb Instead, fix your attention on God.

P.G. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Deb Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it.

P.G. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,

 God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Deb I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me,
 and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you.

P.G. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace,
 it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are
 bringing this goodness to God.

Deb No... **God brings it all to you.**

P.G. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by
 what God is and by what God does for us,
 not by what we are and what we do for God.'

Deb The words of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God