

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

CONCLUDING DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT ON ROMANS 1:17

Romans 1:17 “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

If you review the devotional thoughts of the previous several days based on Romans 1:17 you will realize that the only reason you are righteous, without sin and live with the hope of everlasting life is God's faithfulness. He remains faithful even when you are not. God declares you righteous because of the faith you have received as His gift to you in His Son Jesus. You, having this righteousness, are called by your faithful God to be faithful to Him.

How do you know this is true? The Psalmist writes, “The Lord made His salvation known before the Gentiles; He revealed His righteousness (to you.)” (Psalm 97:2) Not only does God reveal His righteousness to you, but as Isaiah wrote, “The LORD will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.” (Isaiah 52:10)

Paul, prior to his conversion on the road to Damascus, thought only the direct descendants of Abraham, namely, Jews, were the recipients of this righteousness. Jesus turned his life upside-down, opening his eyes and heart to the Gospel's message that Jesus, God's Son, came into the world to seek and save all the lost, not just Jews.

Romans 1:16-17 says that it is the gospel that reveals God declares sinners righteous by faith in His Son Jesus or as is stated in these verses, “by faith from first to last.” It is by God's grace and His gift of faith in Jesus, He declares you righteous. He no longer holds your sins against you. He has freed you from their terrible consequences. In another letter Paul summarizes, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Prayer: Thanks and praise to You, heavenly Father for declaring me righteous for Jesus' sake. Amen

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.
(LSB 563)