

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

GOD IS TRUE TO HIS WORD

Romans 3:4 “. . . Let God be true . . .”

Romans 3:3 (Yesterday's devotional verse) said that God is faithful. Today's devotional verse says that God is “true to His word.” This, at least is the translation that is suggested by Michael Middendorf in His commentary on Romans. The original Greek word from which comes this translation is ἀληθής. The Greek to English dictionary suggests the following English equivalents of this Greek word: “reliable, dependable, an ability to perform what is required.” This Greek word is derived from a Hebrew word (emeth, Emunah) which is often translated with the English word “faithful.” (Yesterday's devotion)

The English word “amen” which we sing at the end of a hymn or speak at the end of a prayer is derived from this word group. When you use this word, you are indicating that what you have sung or said is truthful, reliable, believable, factual.

Truth is “a quality inherent in God. . .and of His activities among us.” (Richardson A Theological Word Book of the Bible.) All that God says and all that God does is truthful, reliable, believable, and factual. There is no human being who is one-hundred percent truthful, reliable, believable, and factual. This quality is unique to God.

You live in a world filled with people, words they say, and actions they do that may or may not be truthful, reliable, believable, and factual. The legal profession and courts of law are devoted to the goal of establishing these qualities but often fail. You can swear in a court of law that you will tell the truth only to realize at the end of a trial that what you thought was true was not.

There is only one whose word is absolutely true with no exceptions. There is only one who is completely truthful, reliable, and can always be believed. This is what the Holy Spirit is telling you through the pen of St. Paul here in Romans 3:4 with the phrase, “let God be true.”

These four words are foundational to your hope of eternal life because it is based upon what God has promised you through the saving work of His Son Jesus. Only because God is true to His Word you can be certain your sins are forgiven and heaven will be your eternal home. Only because of your adoption by God are you His child. All this is true because God is true to His Word.

Prayer: Grant me faith, O Father, to believe and trust Your Word.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!
(LSB 733)