

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

### ALL . . .

Romans 3:22 -24 “. . .There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

All is an inclusive word. Romans 3:22-24 includes Jews and Gentiles. Paul writes “there is no difference between Jew and Gentile.” They “fall short of the glory of God.” They are “justified freely by His grace.” They are redeemed by Christ Jesus. Ethnically Jews and Gentiles are different. Spiritually there is no difference. Both, because of their sins are unable to make themselves right with God. (Yesterday's devotion) Both are declared by God because of His undeserved love for them free of their sins. Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter morning to purchase their souls to become children of God.

You live in a culture that is almost paranoid about discrimination. Laws are regularly passed at all levels of government and policies are established within organizations and businesses to ensure that all people are treated fairly and equally regardless of gender or ethnicity. Inclusiveness is not new. God's heart has always been open to include All under the umbrella of His love to receive His forgiveness and included in His family as His daughters and sons. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Romans 3:24 says “. . . all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” In other words, God incorporates All in a legal way by declaring them free of their sins and adopting them as His children. This status is for Jew and Gentile alike. There are no exclusions to God's love and desire to have all people included in His family.

The key to your inclusion, to your being part of the All is God's grace. The previous verse says you don't deserve being included, but this verse says you are because of God's undeserved love for you. This fact is the heart, center and core of the Gospel which is simply stated in John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” You are “. . .justified (declared righteous) freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I realize I do not deserve any of Your gifts, especially the gift of faith in Your Son Jesus and Your adopting me as Your child. Thank You out of Your undeserved love included me in the reception of these gifts. In Jesus' name.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;  
Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,  
Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;  
As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration,  
What in His Word our God commands,  
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace— grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
In tribulation's furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.  
(LSB 566)

