

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

### **GOD SHOWS GREAT PATIENCE**

Romans 9:22-24 “What if God, although choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction? What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory—even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?”

There are many, many examples of God's patience found throughout the Bible. He patiently guided Moses to lead rebellious Israel for forty years through the wilderness to the promised land. He sent Noah to preach a message of repentance for 120 years before He finally sent the flood in punishment of the world's sins. Jesus ministered with love, concern and patience to Judas who ultimately rejected Him by betraying Him and in despair took his own life.

God shows patience to sinners because His heart is filled with grace and mercy. His heart wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4-6) His love caused Him to send Jesus to give His life as a ransom for sinners. (Matthew 20:28) Jesus gave up heaven, took upon Himself the sins of the world that some would believe and receive eternal life. (Philippians 2:7-8)

God shows His grace and mercy “to make the glory of His riches known.” (Today's devotional verse) Having celebrated the birth of Jesus just weeks ago you heard the angel's message to the shepherds, “I have good new for you. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you. He is Christ (the one promised by God) the Lord (ruler over heaven and earth.)” Wow! God has and continues to “make the glory of His riches known,” doesn't He?

The object of God's grace and mercy, St. Paul writes in today's devotional verse are both Jews and Gentiles. God never forgets the promise He made to Abraham. Jews remain God's chosen people even though so many of them reject His gracious gift of His Son to save them. God also chooses to show His grace and mercy to Gentiles. He sent His Son Jesus to save all people because He loved the world . . . (John 3:16)

Prayer: You patiently pour out your grace and mercy upon sinners, chief of whom I am. Send Your Spirit to work faith in my heart in Your Son Jesus that this grace and mercy does its work to create faith in my heart that I receive Your forgiveness and gift of heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Amazing grace— how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.  
(LSB 744)