

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

### THE SCOPE OF GOD'S MERCY

Romans 9:25-26 As He says in Hosea: "I will call them 'My people' who are not My people; and I will call her 'My loved one' who is not My loved one," and, "In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.' "

In the health care field, licensing and certification determines what a practitioner can and cannot do. Not everyone within the health care field is permitted to do everything. This is what is known as Scope of Practice. Scope of Practice refers to the activities that a licensed health professional is permitted to perform.

The scope of God's mercy refers to those that God chooses to show mercy. While a medical worker's scope is narrow and restricted, not so with God. The Children of Israel believed that they were solely the recipients of God's mercy. Through the pen of Hosea, God said He would determine who would receive His mercy. God said, "I will call them 'My people' who are not My people; and I will call her 'My loved one' who is not My loved one. . ."

It is by divine admission you receive the rights and privileges of His people. Through His adoption you become His son or daughter. It is out of His undeserved goodness, kindness, and love He reaches out to you to bring you into His family. He plays no favorites. "God our Savior . . . wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people." (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

In a recent devotion you read, "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father." (Romans 8:14-15)

Your family of origin, native land, skin color or socio-economic status has no bearing upon God loving you. "Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10) You are called a child of the living God because He has called you into His family.

Prayer: Praise, honor, and glory be to You, O Lord, for the scope of Your love and mercy. Amen.

In God, my faithful God, I trust when dark my road;  
Great woes may overtake me, Yet He will not forsake me.  
My troubles He can alter; His hand lets nothing falter.

My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not despair,  
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock nothing moves me.  
To Him I will surrender, To Him, my soul's defender.

If death my portion be, It brings great gain to me;  
It speeds my life's endeavor To live with Christ forever.  
He gives me joy in sorrow, Come death now or tomorrow.

O Jesus Christ my Lord, So meek in deed and word,  
You suffered death to save us Because Your love would have us  
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness When ends this life of sadness.

"So be it," then, I say With all my heart each day.  
Dear Lord, we all adore You, We sing for joy before you.  
Guide us while here we wander Until we praise You yonder.  
(LSB 745)