

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

### **HEARING THE WORD ABOUT CHRIST**

Romans 10:17 “. . .faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

In a devotion some time ago, I shared with you about a young pastor, standing on a bucket on a street corner, proclaiming the Gospel to a crowd of people as they entered a sports stadium to view a NFL game. To many, if not most of the people who saw that pastor that day, rather than listen to the message of the Gospel from his lips, they focused on the location he chose to deliver it, or the bucket upon which he stood, or the location from which he set up his “pulpit.”

God can give the gift of faith however He chooses. He has chosen to give it through “the word of Christ.” He could simply give someone faith without using anything. But He does not do it that way. He has chosen to give the gift of faith through the word of Christ to which He gives the power to change hearts from unbelief to faith. Thus, the word of Christ is used by the Holy Spirit to create and maintain faith. Faith comes from hearing/receiving that word.

Today's devotional verse is the concluding statement in Romans chapter ten that has stated that God has acted to rescue unbelievers from their dire spiritual condition. He has chosen individuals to take the message of salvation to people everywhere without discrimination. He sends His Holy Spirit to work faith through this message in the hearts of those who hear it. This is how unbelievers become believers. This is how you became a believer in Jesus Christ.

It is with your ears that you hear the word about Christ and it is with your heart that you believe it. This word is like a seed, when planted in the ground germinates, sprouts, grows, and produces many seeds. This word, sown in your heart, by the power of the Holy Spirit, germinates, sprouts, and produces faith in your heart to believe that Jesus is the Christ, your Savior through whom your sins are forgiven and one day heaven will be your permanent home. Through this word you hear the voice of Jesus say, “Come to me and rest!” (LSB 699, verse 1)

Blessed are you when you hear the word of God and believe it!

Prayer: Your Word, O Lord, is precious to me. I pray You will bless me every time I hear, read, and study it that through it my faith in Jesus is strengthened. In His Holy Name. Amen.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "come unto Me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.  
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.  
(LSB 699)