

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

### HOPE

Romans 8:23-25 “. . . we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

For many saying they “hope” it will or will not \_\_\_\_\_, is for them a wish or strong desire. This is not how the dictionary defines the word hope. The dictionary definition for hope is “an expectation, a trust.”

1 Timothy 1:1 says that “Jesus Christ is our hope.” Your hope is anchored in Christ! It is faith based. It has been brought about by Jesus’ Easter resurrection. It is the certainty you have through your faith in Jesus that even though you will die yet you will live for all eternity. St. Paul refers to this as you Gospel hope because the promise of your salvation has come to you through the power of the Gospel working in you faith given by the Holy Spirit to have the sure and certain expectation of eternal life.

Peter writes, “Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming.” (1 Peter 1:13) The hymn “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. . .” captures the Old and New Testament use of the word hope.

Your Christian hope is always Christ centered. It is guaranteed by His resurrection from the grave. In fact, St. Paul writes, “And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:14-17)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my heart with hope in Christ. In His name. Amen.

Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak gladness to this heart;

They tell me all is done, They bid my fear depart.

Refrain: To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, Lord Shall I flee?

Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;  
Thy stripes, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.  
Refrain:

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crushing load  
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God. Refrain:

Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;  
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few. Refrain:

Thy righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;  
No righteousness avails Save that which is of Thee. Refrain:  
(LSB 565)