

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

THINK OF YOURSELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAITH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Romans 12:3 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

In today's devotional verse, St. Paul continues presenting to you that God is at work in you to direct and guide your life in accord with His will. He says that as you think about your life concentrate on the faith God has given you. Paul said of His own life, "...by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. . . " (1 Corinthians 15:10) And, of your life Paul wrote in Philippians 2:13 "...it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."

Your sinful nature would have you focus your life upon yourself. It would have you derive pleasure from your achievements, status in life and give you a feeling of superiority. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." God through Isaiah declares His displeasure with pridefulness, "I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless."

Instead of pride, Peter writes, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time." (1 Peter 5:6) And, James also encourages you to humble yourself before the Lord and let Him exalt you in His good time. (James 4:10)

Pride is the "very root and essence of sin. . .it attributes to you the glory that is due to God." (A Theological Wordbook of the Bible by Richardson) The Psalmist in 118:8 says, "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans." And in Psalm 146:3-5, "Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God."

There is only one thing you can confidently boast in, namely, the cross of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (see Galatians 6:14)

Prayer: Lord, grant me a humble heart that gives praise, honor, and glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!
(LSB 426)