

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

### **DO NOT BE PROUD**

Romans 12:16 "Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position."

Solomon wrote, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18) The Philistine giant Goliath, a mighty warrior, feared by the Israelites, when the young boy David came out to fight him, said, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here. . . and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!" (1 Samuel 17:43-44) David replied, "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands . . . All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give all of you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:47) God gave David the ability to defeat Goliath with a simple sling shot and five smooth stones.

In today's devotional verse, St. Paul addresses the issue of pride, such as Goliath had. Sometimes Christians can think too highly of themselves, that they are "better" than those around them. This can also be true not only of individual Christians but even religious denominations. Paul says, "Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position."

James also addressed this problem, "Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:2-4) James then asked, "Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?" (James 2:5)

God has called you to faith in Jesus to lift you up and give you the gift of heaven. God has called you to lift up those of "low position" (Romans 12:16) by telling them about Jesus. He has chosen you to not look down your nose at them. Rather, He has chosen you to share with them His love by telling them about His Son, their Savior, Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, grant me a humble heart that cares for all people even as Jesus did by dying on the cross for all no matter their status in this life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy living finger never wrote  
That life should be an aimless mote, A death-ward drift from futile birth.  
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled In splendor through Thy broken  
world. Since light awoke and life began, Thou hast desired Thy life for man.

Our fatal will to equal Thee, Our rebel will wrought death and night.  
We seized and used in prideful spite Thy wondrous gift of liberty.  
We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had royal scope and room,  
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace, Breached all its walls for our release.

Thou camest to our hall of death, O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
To drink for us the dark despair That strangled our reluctant breath.  
How beautiful the feet that trod The road that leads us back to God!  
How beautiful the feet that ran To bring the great good news to man!

O Spirit, who didst once endure Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men, Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,  
That in these gray and latter days There may be those whose life is praise,  
Each life a high doxology To Father, Son, and unto Thee.  
(LSB 834)