

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

### **PROMISES KEPT**

Romans 15:8-9 "For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy."

Once again, the political season is upon us in the United States. One thing politicians are noted for is the number of promises they make throughout their campaigns for office. A huge majority of Americans do not believe these promises will be kept. However, according to studies done by political scientists over the past fifty years, a majority of the promises made by candidates running for the office of President have kept or at least have attempted to keep their promises. But, the study also found that no candidate kept 100% of their promises.

Reading through the pages of the Old Testament you will find hundreds of passages where God promised that He would send a Savior into the world. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God made them a promise that He would send a Savior who would crush the head of Satan. (Genesis 3:15) God repeated that promise many, many times until it was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived on this earth for over thirty-three years, redeemed sinners by His death on Calvary's cross and rose victorious over Satan, sin, the world, and death on Easter morning.

Unlike us human beings who, try as we might, never keep every promise we make, God keeps all of His. He keeps His promises to all people or as St. Paul writes in Romans 15, Jew and Gentile alike. God does not play favorites.

How comforting and faith strengthening it is for you to know that when God promised to send His Son to save you and all people from their sins, He kept His promise. When Jesus came to earth to carry out His saving work, He promised, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die." After making this promise to Martha, He asked her, "Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26) Martha's answer, "Yes, Lord I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." (John 11:27)

God grant you the faith that your answer is the same as Martha's.

Prayer: Glory be to You, O God, that You keep Your promises so that I am certain that through faith in Your Son Jesus I know my sins are forgiven and I have the certainty of eternal life with You. Amen.

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine;  
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.  
(LSB 720)