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Devotion for January 21st, 2022

Romans 10:1-21

With all due respect to Joel and his memorable prophecy about a plague of locusts, the focus of today's devotion is on the other appointed reading in our daily lectionary, [Romans 10:1-21](#). And what a reading it is! In fact, it even indirectly addresses Joel's plague, calling it God's judgment against the sin of covenant breaking, as [10:5](#) states: *"For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them."*

Earlier though, Paul had written that the perfect keeping of the Old Covenant was an impossible task: *"All sin and and fall short of God's glory."* ([Romans 3:23](#)) But now, according to the apostle, God offers a better and far more gracious way: *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* ([Romans 10:8-9](#))

Salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus is the way of it now, the way that God provides salvation for all who believe, *"for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* ([Romans 10:13](#)) Whatever your station in life, whatever you might be facing today, in this moment, there is great comfort in that sweet sentence. For you see, even as you sit reading this devotion while sipping on your coffee, tea, or other drink of choice, the Holy Spirit is at work to strengthen faith, for *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* ([Romans 10:17](#))

In these latter days it is extremely difficult to determine if God has intentionally sent a plague, a pandemic, or some other natural disaster. Regardless, He has permitted it and always for the same purpose: that people's hearts would be turned back towards Him, that they would call upon His name and see in Word and Sacrament the person of His Son, Jesus, who came to die for their sin and more than that, rose again to life on the third day. That, dear friend in Christ, is your strength to face the day ahead, now and always. Praise by the Holy name of Jesus forever. Amen!

*God's blessings,
Rev. Kevin Loughran, Senior Pastor
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