“**Righteousness through Faith**” – Lenten Devotional for February 14, 2016

Romans 3: 21-31

“…This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”(v. 22)

“…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”(v. 23, 24)

“…where then is boasting? It is excluded.” (v27)

What a great promise we have in today’s passage! Apostle Paul instructs us on righteousness. Attaining it does not involve convoluted processes. Rather, he tells us we simply have to just believe in Christ Jesus. Righteousness is not based on what our background is, how much we adhere to societal rules, or how much we contribute to our communities or churches. These are all wonderful things and Christians are accountable to God for our earthly acts**.** However, righteousness is simply a matter of our hearts-that state of our inner being. It is founded on faith through Jesus Christ. Paul beautifully remarks of the free flowing grace of Christ, the redemptive power of Jesus Christ that came from the cross. Every man needs it. The redemption through Jesus Christ is available to all of us, sinners, as long as we have faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in this season of Lent, let us thoroughly examine ourselves to determine what is depraving us of a righteous heart. Is it our unwillingness to embrace and love the situations and people that God has put around us? Is it our haughtiness? Is it our unwillingness to pray unceasingly with great faith? Is it our inability to forgive ourselves or someone else for past acts? Is it that hopelessness that overtakes us due to our inability to overcome a long struggle?

Whatever is depraving us of a righteous heart consequently erodes our intimate relationship with Christ. But rest assured for we have a great hope! Let us simply go back to Christ. For all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No sin, no struggle, no weakness is too daunting to overcome when our eyes are focused on Christ. The redemptive power of Christ allows the Christian to simply live life with the confidence that is based solely on faith in Christ. Let us hold dearly and tightly to the one unmovable foundation we have in this world-our faith in Christ.

Having faith in Christ means we believe He alone is the son of God and salvation is available only through him, we constantly seek Holy Spirit’s guidance in purifying our minds and renewing us, we continually delight ourselves in the Lord so that He will reveal to us His perfect and joyful ways, and we do not boast about anything for our faith in Christ makes us aware of the grace of God that is evident in every aspect of our lives. A true faith in Jesus Christ allows us to be more and more like our creator. So let us make the commitment to grow in faith each moment, each day, each week. As a result, may Christ transform us and may our righteousness shine! May Christ empower us to truly transform our children, our church, and our country for the betterment of His heavenly kingdom.