

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

### **HEAR AND DO**

Romans 2:12-13 "All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous."

"Did you hear me?" Susie's mother, in exasperation repeated herself, "Did you hear me?" Her mother was not testing whether Susie's ears were working correctly. She was frustrated because Susie was not doing what she had asked her to do.

This is what today's devotional verses are about. God wants you not only to hear the word's He has spoken to you. He wants you to put them into practice. He wants you to think, speak and act in accordance with and obedience of what He has said to you.

It makes no difference whether you have the written word of God from the Holy Scriptures or not. If you have the Holy Scriptures, you are without excuse because you have the very words of God. At the same time, those who do not have the Holy Scriptures are required by God to hear and also put into practice what His word says. They may not have read the Bible, but Paul writes in Romans 2:15, ". . . the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them."

Since all human beings have received God's law, He expects that what they have received they will do what it says. He will judge their every thought, word and activity based upon what His law says. He will expect His law to be obeyed completely. This is what Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." He will show His wrath to those who disobey. (Romans 2:5)

In the knowledge of God's wrath toward sin His Son has rescued you from it. "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Prayer: Thank You heavenly Father for Your grace upon grace which You pour out upon me through Your Son Jesus. Amen.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;  
Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sins.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration,  
What in His Word our God commands, Our faith in what our God has done  
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, in tribulation's furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.  
(LSB 566)