

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

### **PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH**

Romans 2:21 “. . .you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?”

A rhetorical question is asked to lay emphasis on a point being discussed. No answer is expected. A rhetorical question may have an obvious answer, but the questioner asks it to make his point, impress or persuade.

In today's devotional verses (Romans 1:17-24,) St. Paul used four rhetorical questions as a teaching tool. He had a point to make and chose to do so asking a series of questions.

What was St. Paul's point of emphasis? Paul starts this section of verses with the conditional word “if.” He says, “If” you are really a Jew, you depend upon the Torah and boast in God (Romans 2:17) then it is expected you will conduct yourself and your life in accord with the teachings of God's word. You will, as is often said today, “practice what you preach (teach.)” You will do what the Torah teaches you to do.

As a follower of Yahweh, He wants you to not just teach His word and will but also to put it into practice in your own life. A genuine follower of Him does not pretend, but is sincere, genuine, and faithful in doing what God demands. This is the life that God demands no matter at what personal cost you may experience.

This is a hard teaching! Your human nature has a great desire to be accepted and popular. It encourages you to not make waves but to go along with what others are doing. No one wants to stick out in the crowd, be different, or draw negative attention to themselves. It is much better to be one of the guys or gals than be “different.”

Yet Jesus says to you, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. . . You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. . . The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.” (Matthew 10:16,22, 24) For you to live is Christ and to die because of your service to Him is great gain. (Philippians 1:21)

Prayer: Draw me, dear Savior, always to You and Your ways. Amen.

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever  
And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness  
That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.

Draw us to Thee That also we Thy heav'nly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to Thee Unceasingly, Into Thy kingdom take us;  
Let us fore'er Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.  
(LSB 701)