

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

### NO JUDGING ZONE

Romans 14:10-12 "You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

St. Paul questions the Roman Christians as to why they are judging fellow members. Their judging is so severe that they literally are despising one another. Paul then quotes God's word from Isaiah, "'As surely as I live. . .every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." The point of Romans 14:10-12 is God is the judge so leave judging up to Him; cease and desist from taking away from God what is His which in this case is to judge. Strong and weak must stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and they will not judge each other—they will be judged by the Lord.

Knowing that God is the Judge, Paul asks, "why do you judge one another?" Why are you judging your brother or sister? Why are you despising one another. Why do you believe you a sinner are a better person than the one you judge? Are your sins of lesser importance than theirs? Will not your sins condemn you as their sins will condemn them?

Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-5)

Remember, there will come a day when you will stand before Jesus, your judge. You will not give an account of your brother or sisters life. Today's devotional verse says, on that day you will give an account of yourself, your life, your thoughts, words, and actions. You have no authority to condemn anyone today and you will not on that last day. Both of you will individually stand before the judgement seat of Jesus and He will render HIS judgement regarding each of you.

Prayer: Lord, fill my heart with love for others to encourage them in their daily life and always point them to Jesus their Lord and Savior. In His name. Amen.

At the name of Jesus Ev'ry knee shall bow, Ev'ry tongue confess Him  
King of glory now. 'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation Sprang once to sight, All the angel faces,  
All the hosts of light, Thrones and bright dominions, Stir upon their way,  
All the heav'nly orders In their treat array.

Humbled for a season, To receive a name From the lips of sinners  
Unto Him He came. Faithfully He bore it Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious When from death He passed;

Bore it up triumphant With its human light, Through all ranks of creatures  
To the central height. To the throne of Godhead, To the Father's breast,  
Filled it with the glory Of that perfect rest.

In Your hearts enthrone Him; There let Him subdue All that is not holy, All  
that is not true: Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour;  
Let His will enfold you In its light and pow'r.

Christians, this Lord Jesus Shall return again In His Father's glory,  
With His angel train; For all wreaths of empire Meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

Glory then to Jesus, Who, the Prince of light, To a world in darkness  
Brought the gift of sight; Praise to God the Father; In the Spirit's love  
Praise we all together Him who reigns above.

(LSB 512)