

Romans 2

- Last week I did a message on Romans 1, and many theologians
- Have considered it to be the most important book in the Bible.
- It was referred to as the “The Cathedral of the Christian Faith,”
- And the cornerstone of the New Testament.
- The Gospel of Christ tells how all humanity was trapped in sin,
- And that obeying the law of Torah could not rescue them
- And it was only by the death of Jesus and His resurrection,
- That salvation was possible for the world
- The theme of Romans is that Salvation comes from God, thru Jesus.
- Today, we are going to take a look at Chapter 2
- And once again, when scripture speaks, God speaks,
- And we are to hear God speak very clearly today.

Romans 2 - You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God is not a respecter of persons.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that 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.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; ¹⁸ if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; ¹⁹ if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹ you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴ As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

²⁵ Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. ²⁶ So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? ²⁷ The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. ²⁸ A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

- This scripture is reminding us of the level of integrity that we Christians,
- Need to embody, a level of personal integrity that we should strive for.
- And when we read this, we should be thinking about our Savior.
- And we should recall the words at the beginning of Matthew 7.
- **Judge not, and you shall not 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?"**
- Paul is repeating one of the foundations of the teaching of Jesus,
- And this is the theme that was given by Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount.
- That each one of us needs to think about what God expects of us,
- And to live in that particular manner.
- There are many things that God teaches us.
- One of them was teaching us not to steal.
- ²¹ **you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?**

- And we certainly teach our children early not to steal, but do we?
- Do we conduct all of our personal financial business with honesty,
- And do we display integrity in the way that we live?
- Are we honest on our taxes?
- Do we practice what we preach to others?
- Are we applying all the Biblical teachings in our lives?
- Or do we specialize in telling others that they need to do,
- But not apply it to our own?
- If no one is looking, are we doing what is right?
- **For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**
- And there are other teachings that Paul mentions above as well.
- **²²You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?**
- We need to remember this, and to be concerned about it.
- Are we tenacious on doing what is right, not some of the time,
- But all of the time.
- As we get older, when we look at the our lives and the life of others,
- We can see just how God works.
- **And with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**
- This scripture should be accepted as a promise directly from God.
- I believe that most humans and unfortunately,
- An inordinate amount of self-professed Christians are of the understanding,
- That they alone know best on how others are to live. And they conveniently
- Excuse themselves from the accusation of judgment,
- Claiming that they are just rightfully discerning the word of God.
- It's a fine line...
- But be very careful that you don't cross it.
- Many times in my life, people have called me "brutally honest."
- They have said if you want to know the truth, ask David Phillips.
- He will answer you with brutal honesty.
- And that can be a good thing, but it also can be a bad thing.
- And hopefully, as I've aged, matured and mellowed,
- My answers are merciful and compassionate.
- And despite my many personal failings in my own life,
- I heartily to remain extremely transparent.

- And I will tell someone that I know that I am far from perfect,
- And that I am nothing but a saved sinner who is a WIP,
- And that I will 100% tell you what the word of God says.
- And that's the best advice that any of us can give.
- What does the Word of God say?
- We need to be honest and forthright with others.
- And many times when we expect people to live in a certain manner,
- And they don't we might shake our heads,
- But then in the times and turns of life,
- There are events in our own lives, that might bring us to that same position,
- And that's what these verses are saying to us.
- How will we respond when we find ourselves
- In these difficult positions of life?
- Either we are going to live up to it, or we won't.
- This is the scriptural definition of integrity, and the definition of equity.
- **Equity is the spirit of the law behind the letter; justice is the application of the spirit of equity; honesty is the general everyday use of justice or fairness**
- When talking about Jesus in Isaiah 11:4, it says
- **⁴But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**
- He will reprove with equity for the meek of the earth
- It's the reason that God believes that we will not seek our own justice,
- But instead, we always rely on Him to show us the rightness of it all.
- I am sure I am not alone here
- But when I read scripture or hear it spoken to me, I take it to heart.
- My first reaction is panic, because I don't want to sin.
- I want to experience the love of God, not His wrath.
- In these verses, we truly do need to read them carefully,
- And we need to have an attitude of self-reflection.
- Are we living up to what we expect others to be?
- Are we free from judgement?
- Are we willing to first assume mercy?
- Or do we hold others up to the standards that we cannot uphold ourselves.
- I have seen many times in the church fellowship where this occurs
- Sometimes it comes from the sheep that look critically on the Shepherds.

- They will condemn and say that those in leadership should know better.
- And though it's true that those in leadership have entrusted themselves
- To the congregants, and it doesn't excuse them
- But at the same time, it is everyone's responsibility
- To have the utmost integrity and equity, in every facet of our lives,
- With as much effort as we can humanly muster.
- Jesus told us that if we look at another with lust, we are sinning.
- Jesus desires that we hold ourselves to a higher level.
- And that lusting was a form of adultery in our hearts.
- That's the level, of honesty, integrity, and equity that Jesus is looking for.
- That's the standard He wants us to hold ourselves to.
- The fact is, we need to be very much conservative with ourselves,
- And at the same time, be very understanding of the struggles
- That our brothers and sisters are having in their own lives.
- We have a responsibility to hold ourselves to that very high standard
- Of being patient, merciful, kind, gentle, and temperate with one another.
- We should not be quick to judge another man's walk,
- Until we walk a mile in their shoes. (F)
- And the word takes us through the OT, when the Jews
- Forgot the weightier matters of judgment, of mercy,
- And those things of understanding.
- And they exacted the highest standards on others and yet were
- Unaware of their own personal failings. (Luke 18:14 –Parable)
- And as a result they lost their way.
- And circumcision, with the physical manifestation of it,
- And genealogy became ever so important to them.
- They became totally hung up on the letter of the law and began to twist it.
- Instead of obeying the law in taking care of their parents, they gave gifts
- To the temple instead, not doing what God expected them to do.
- Paul wants us to give more thought and consideration.
- Are we gentle enough with others?
- Do we hold ourselves to a high standard of integrity and expectation?
- Do we extend mercy to others?
- As human beings, with our natural failings,
- There are times that we seem to get this all mixed up,
- And we are quick to hold others to a high standard.

- We see it today in our secular world as well as in our Faith world.
- People are quick and seem almost happy,
- To decry an immoral act of another person,
- Or on a class of people that the world looks down on,
- As being vile and sinful in their nature, and again,
- One never knows when we might fall into an unfortunate situation,
- Where the curtain comes down on us, and we are exposed as well.
- The Jews were often very guilty of holding others
- To the strictness of the law, without upholding it themselves.
- Has there ever been a time when you criticized the actions of someone,
- And then down the line you found that you were guilty of the same thing?
- And that brings us back to verse 1 - **You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things**
- Are we willing to be ever so conservative in our own life?
- Are we willing to be merciful to our brothers and sisters?
- I have see so many times in church environments the same unattractive
- Christian pride surface, when the Pharasitic words that we are warned about,
- Come rushing like raw sewage out of our own mouths.
- Words that are judgmental, harsh, mean, critical, and sinful.
- Again, are we living our lives the way that we present them to be?
- Is our moral purity what it should be?
- Is our financial stewardship what it should be?
- Are we exercising the fruits of the Holy Spirit at home, at work, at Church?
- Are the things that we set on our eyes on wholesome when we are alone?
- If Jesus was looking right over our shoulder... And He is.
- He is there with us when we do those things that are contrary to His will.
- Do we cry out with indignation of the sin of our society we live in,
- But find ourselves curious and ready to slip into it as well?
- This chapter is a good reminder that we need to not only
- Stop being so critical and harsh with others,
- And not be quick to holding them to a high standard,
- When we are not living up to the standards of the word of God ourselves.
- In Chapter 1, here is a list of some things we need to be cognizant of:
- **Romans 1:20-32 - And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife,**

deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- Are we individually and collectively as a Church Body,
- Living up to the way that we are presenting ourselves to be?
- Let's examine our own hearts.
- If we are lacking in any area, it's time to go to God and confess
- It's time to walk circumspectly
- It's time to walk obediently with love,
- Always ready to extend mercy and grace.