

# Self Judgment

Romans 2:1-4



**Rock Hill Baptist Church**  
**605 Rock Hill Road**  
**Lexington, Tennessee 38351**

**Pastor David Buffaloe**  
**731-845-6104**  
**online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)**

**FOCAL Read Responsively** **Romans 2:1-4** Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. **(2) But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.** (3) And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? **(4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**

Where is your thought life centered<sup>KJV</sup>? Where are you spiritually focused? Are you spiritually focused, serving God through Christ in your everyday life?

## **Introduction & Prayer: I Must Judge Myself First**

**PRAYER** “Lord Jesus, I sin. Grant that I may never cease grieving because of it, never be content with myself, never think I can reach a point of perfection. Kill my envy, command my tongue, trample down self. Give me grace to be holy, kind, gentle, pure, peaceable, to live for Thee and not for self, to copy Thy words, acts, spirit, to be transformed into Thy likeness, to be consecrated wholly to Thee, to live entirely to Thy glory. Deliver me from attachment to things unclean, from wrong associations, from the predominance of evil passions, from the sugar of sin as well as its gap; that with self-loathing, deep contrition, earnest heart searching I may come to

Thee, cast myself on Thee, trust in Thee, cry to Thee, be delivered by Thee. O God, the Eternal All, help me to know that all things are shadows, but Thou art substance, all things are quicksands, but Thou art mountain, all things are shifting, but Thou art anchor, all things are ignorance, but Thou art wisdom. If my life is to be a crucible amid burning heat, so be it, but do Thou sit at the furnace mouth to watch the ore that nothing be lost. If I sin willfully, grievously, tormentedly, in grace take away my mourning and give me music; remove my sackcloth and clothe me with beauty; still my sighs and fill my mouth with song, then give me summer weather as a Christian<sup>1</sup>.

Our text today warns us about losing our *spiritual focus*. What is the background of this text? The Jew who had rejected Christ as Savior was sitting in judgment on the Gentile who *had been saved* by faith in Jesus Christ.

Their focus was not on getting right with God in their own lives, but their focus was *finding fault* with those who had surrendered their faults to Christ.

How awful it is to waste your life judging others, and yet never get right with God yourself!

You have all known people who refuse to serve the Lord, and base their refusal on what others in the local Church are or aren't doing. This is the thrust of the text:

<sup>1</sup> From *Valley of Vision*, a collection of Puritan Prayers. Online at <http://www.oldlandmarks.com>

**FOCAL** Romans 2:1 Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man<sup>2</sup>, whosoever thou art that judgest**: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for **thou that judgest doest the same things**.

The word for **man** in this text is the Greek , *ἄνθρωπος*, *anthrōpos*, (pronounced *anth'-ro-pos*), which is used in this Scripture for *unsaved man*. The unsaved Jew is watching the saved Gentile doing things *imperfectly, irreligiously, in a failing manner* and is using the failure of the saved to cover their own sin. I'm sure you all know someone who refuses to come to Church and serve the Lord, who points to the inconsistencies and failures of the Church and then sits back proud, saying "At least I'm not like them". Perhaps you all know someone on your Church membership roll who never works for God anywhere – and yet justifies their non-attendance by pointing out the sins of others who *do* attend Church. The problem with such judgments is that they are inconsistent. God does not judge YOU based on what OTHERS do. God judges *each one of us* based on our *individual* obedience to Him and Him alone.

The Pharisees and Sadducees never quite understood this as they stood back and quietly plotted against the Lord Jesus Christ. They felt that their righteousness, their ritualism, their obedience to the Law was enough to win

<sup>2</sup> G444, *ἄνθρωπος*, *anthrōpos*, *anth'-ro-pos*, From G435 and ὤψ *ōps* (the *countenance*; from G3700); *manfaced*, that is, a *human* being: - certain, man.

them regard in God's eyes. Our Lord Jesus emphasized the evil of the Pharisees and Scribes when He condemned them at length in **Matthew 23:13-33**. You can see how strong God views ritualism without relationship as you read just one verse of this text:

**Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in [yourselves], neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.**

This is what is being condemned in the first part on Romans chapter two. These people are judging the Gentile living by faith, but because their outward life does not look as *perfect* as the outward life of the judge, the Jew is condemning the Gentile.

**Illustrate** Listen, dear ones. The Bible does not, contrary to what you may have heard, forbid judging. Humans are created in the image of God, and we all make judgments every day. When milk has passed its expiration date we smell it and judge whether it is still fit to drink or not. We check meat to determine if it is spoiled before we cook it. There was a commercial, I am told, on television some time ago about two college students. One student walked in the room and asked the other student, “What are you eating?”. The second student replied, “Cottage cheese”. The first student then asked, “Since when did they put cottage cheese in milk cartons?” One of those students should have used the sense that the good Lord gave him and exercised a bit of judgment *in his own life*.

It is good to judge ourselves, but dangerous to judge others. *God honors* judgment that looks *inward first* before it looks *outward*. Let us ask ourselves “What does God say to me?” before I ask myself, “What is God saying to my neighbor?”

### **Self-Judgment Is A Critical Component In Biblical Salvation**

**FOCAL** Romans 2:1 Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man<sup>3</sup>, whosoever thou art that judgest:** for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for **thou that judgest doest the same things.**

We are *all sinners*, and can only be saved if we are saved *by the Grace of God*. The Pharisees never saw this great truth. Jesus Christ illustrated salvation's gain and loss in the parable of the *Pharisee and the Publican*. The Lord said:

**Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or**

3 G444, ἀνθρώπος, anthrōpos, *anth'-ro-pos*, From G435 and ὤψ ops (the *countenance*; from G3700); *manfaced*, that is, a *human being*: - certain, man.

even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

What *justifies* a person? Is it not that **God Almighty, that righteous Judge, has declared the person innocent for faith's sake?**

Whether Pharisee (religious but lost) or publican (non-religious but lost), we are all lost and undone without Jesus. We need not waste our time judging others **while thou that judgest doest the same things.**

Until you have come to God by faith *through the Christ of Calvary* you, dear friend, are lost and undone. The Bible sums the Divine Truth up this way:

**John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

God's wrath *abides* on the one who continues to reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If you *have* Jesus inside, if *His Spirit abides in you*, then the **wrath of God abides not**. If you have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior the **goodness of God** still gives you life, still gives you an opportunity to surrender to Christ. That **goodness of God**, however, will not stay His hand of judgment if you die without Christ in your life!

When our foreparents **Adam and Eve** fell under Satan's trickery and allowed sin to enter their lives, each one of these dear ones *failed to judge themselves*. Adam judged Eve, saying:

**Genesis 3:12 ... The woman whom thou gavest [to be] with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.**

The sin was Adams, yet he sought to place blame on Eve. Eve herself is not entirely faultless, for her statement:

**Genesis 3:13 ... The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

If like an old *Flip Wilson Comedy routine*. Flip used to say, "The devil made me do it, the devil made me do it!" No, the devil did not make you do it. You did it yourself, and God bids you come home.

If you are not walking with the Lord, if you have allowed

spiritual death to reign in your life, lay blame at your own feet. God has died for you. God has shed His Blood for you! He **so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16)**. Why tarry blaming another. Repent! Confess! Acknowledge! Throw yourself on His mercy – His Grace is sufficient for even the greatest of sinners. As the old song says:

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!** <sup>4</sup>

Before their sin was addressed in their *own hearts* the Lord was not free to minister to them. They stood before Almighty God, the one that the Jews call *Hakkadosh Barukh Hu*<sup>5</sup>, **The Holy One, Blessed Be He** – clothed only in **fig leaves (Genesis 3:7)** they had knitted together to cover their nakedness and sin.

In **Genesis 3:21** we see:

**Genesis 3:21** **Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins,**

4

5 From [http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Names\\_of\\_G-d/Holy\\_One/holy\\_one.html](http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Names_of_G-d/Holy_One/holy_one.html)

**and clothed them.**

Oh my Beloved, God cannot clothe you until you judge yourself to need a Savior. While you, like the Pharisees, consider yourself to be clean, you will not need the **Great Physician**. Jesus loves to eat with those who invite Him to their table. Invite Him regardless as to what others may say. Realize that you must know Him and be in Him to be saved – and calling upon the name of the Lord you will be saved. Once more with emphasis:

**Mark 2:16-17** **And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? (17) When Jesus heard [it], he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.****

The Great Physician came to heal the lost in sin-sickness. The Great Physician came to call **sinners to repentance**. The Great Physician will not come to your house if you do not call. Call Him to the Temple of your life this very day!

**Self-Judgment Is A Critical Component  
In Biblical Sanctification**

**FOCAL** **Romans 2:2-3** ... we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. (3) And **thinkest thou**

**this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?**

I don't know about you, but I want God to *sanctify* me, to *separate* me to His service – but I do NOT want Him to judge or condemn me. If God judges or **punishes** those who do sinful things, He will surely judge or **punish** me in this life if I do the same things. **God is no respecter of persons (Romans 2:11)**. He does not have one standard He applies to one person, then another standard that He applies to the other person.

The Corinthian Christians had let the Lord's Table get out of hand. Rather than using that symbolic table to honor the sacrifice of Christ as He requested (**this do ye in remembrance of Me – Luke 22:19**) the Corinthians began to turn their worship time into *party time*. The Lord warned them:

**1 Corinthians 11:29-32 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (30) For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. (31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (32) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.**

Do not believe that, if you are a Christian, that you shall escape judgment and punishment if you do wrong. We who are human punish our children when they err – God likewise punishes His children when they step away from His bounty of Grace.

**Illustrate** If I have an infected cut on my body, I do not need to bandage your body. Before I tend to your needs I will first tend to mine.

Today's modern aircraft often flies high above the blanket of oxygen that surrounds this small third rock from the Sun we call “earth”. By flying higher than the heaviest oxygen layer aircraft can travel from one point to another using less fuel. To keep the guests of the airline comfortable oxygen is pumped into the cabin. If the aircraft for some reason loses cabin pressure it loses oxygen. At that moment an oxygen mask will fall from the overhead compartment in front of your face. Airline stewards warn people who are traveling with *young children or invalid elder people to first put on – not the masks of your traveling companions – but your OWN mask*. Why? If you spend too much time putting on the weaker person's mask you might pass out *before* getting your own mask on. Put your mask on, then help those traveling with you to put their masks on. This way no one gets hurt or dies of oxygen deprivation.

In the same way we need to *judge ourselves before we judge someone else*. If I as a Christian have unconfessed and unacknowledged sin in my life then I am not in a good position to give anyone else advice. Sin, like sleep, has stolen over my soul! It is time for the believer to:

**Romans 13:11-12 ... awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed. (12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

You must judge yourself honestly in the light of the revealed Word of God. Are you where God wants you to be in Him? If not, seek wisdom in the Word of God. The Scripture says of itself:

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Judge yourselves – not with opinion, but with God's good Word. Judge yourselves not by your neighbor, but by Your Lord – who loved you and gave Himself for you (Ephesians 5:2).

**We Who Are Spiritual Are To Let The Word Of God Judge, NOT Our Own Personal Opinion**

Does our context *forbid judging* others? No, not really. The text says:

**FOCAL Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.**

Those who are being judged are **doing the same things that they are judging others for**. There is an old saying I heard once which states<sup>6</sup>,

**“In judging others a man laboreth in vain; he often erreth, and easily falleth into sin; but in judging and examining himself he always laboreth to good purpose”**

When judging others, we should use only the *lightest of touches* whereas when we judge ourselves we should use the heavier hand. Again, I must first apply antiseptic and a bandage to MYSELF, before I attempt to help YOU. The Lord Jesus Christ said:

**Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. (2) For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (3) Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye? (4) Or how can you say to**

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Kempis

**your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye? (5) Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.**<sup>HCSB</sup>

Clear your life first, then lovingly assist those brothers and sisters whom the Lord has graciously allowed to come into your life. **Judgment must begin at the House of God (1 Peter 4:17)**, but it begins in my own heart *first!* Jesus *never* said “Do not judge”. No, dear friends, not at all. If you look at the full context you see that *there is a balance with God*. God requires that there be *righteous judgment*. I must **get the log out of my eye** and then I can help you **take the speck out of your eye**. But here's the key – I do not use my opinion nor my own judgment in dealing with my or your life. I use the *clear teachings of the Word of God*. This is safest, and protects me from falling.

If you will help the blind person cross the highway, first *look to your own safety*. Focus not on the blind person, but focus on your own life asking yourselves, “Am I where I need to be with the Lord?” Spiritual focus must *always be inward before it is outward*.

The Bible teaches that *all judgment is committed to the Son*. Jesus Christ has life in Himself. Jesus Christ has

been **given authority to judge**. He says:

**John 5:26-27 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; (27) And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**

Jesus can judge, for He has the authority. Jesus can judge, for He is Almighty God. I myself, however, am unqualified to judge. Therefore I **MUST** rely on the clear teachings of the Word of God. *What saith the Word?* If God condemns it, I “amen” it. If God allows it, I “amen” that as well. If I come in with *my opinion* then I am like the *friends of Job* who condemned him when he had lost everything. They thought, “Surely God would not punish the faithful this way. Job is backslidden – this is why he suffers so.” In reality Job had done nothing but loved the Lord, and the Lord allowed Job to be tried for His own reasons. The great **C.H. Spurgeon** stated of the *fine friends*<sup>7</sup>:

**“Their mistake was that they sat in judgment upon another who was more tried than themselves, and condemned him for being in sore distress. Their own serenity led them to judge the troubled one very harshly. This ought not to be. If any of us are inclined thus to judge and condemn, it is time that we put this mischievous spirit far from us. If we judge**

7 In his sermon DELIGHT IN THE ALMIGHTY. NO. 1839 A SERMON DELIVERED ON LORD’S-DAY MORNING, MAY 3RD, 1885, BY C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

**others, others will judge us. Two can always play at that evil game.** I remember a company of terribly despondent believers who were for years a severe scourge to their happier brethren. Having a deep sense of their inward corruptions, being sorely tempted of the devil, and having only a weak and trembling faith, they tyrannized over others who were more happy than themselves. They judged that those who were not as much tempted as themselves did not exhibit the spot of God's children. None were more bitter than these humble people in denouncing those who had not been as much humbled as themselves. Those who did not sit in the dust, and groan to the same tunes as themselves, they judged to be very dubious Christians, and took care to scald them with that kind of hot pity which is not much different from contempt. This was as wrong as wrong can be. It is not to be endured that the sick should make themselves the standard of health, that dwarfs should set up to be the models of manhood."

We do judge, but we judge according to the *standard of the Word of God*. For instance, the Word says:

**1 Corinthians 5:11-13 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. (12) For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? (13) But them that are without**

**God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

When a brother begins to follow the lifestyle that God's Word condemns (fornicator, covetous, idolater, railer or fighter, drunkard, extortioner) then we approach that brother, point out the sin, and if they are unrepentant then we **put them away from us**. We do not seek them out to fellowship with them, but love them and continually warn them to return to the loving arms of Jesus. This is not forbidden to the believer – as a matter of fact, it is expected by God. A whole *phone book listing of sins* were just uncovered in chapter one of Romans:

**Romans 1:29-31 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (30) Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**

We will not tolerate Biblically defined sin in our midst – the Bible will not allow us to do so. Yet we are always gentle, loving, deferring to God's Word no matter what may come. The primary duty of the Christian is the

**ministry of reconciliation** – to lead people to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **We Who Are Spiritual Have A Ministry Of Reconciliation**

**FOCAL** Romans 2:4 Or **despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance<sup>8</sup>?**

It is the **goodness of God that leads us to repentance**. We are to point out that goodness while pointing others to Christ.

That word **repentance** is the Greek **μετάνοια**, *metanoia*, (pronounced *met-an'-oy-ah*), which means *to reverse your decision from the way you were to the way you should be*. God wants you and I to *repent*, to *change our way of thinking* from a state of spiritual death to a state cognizant of spiritual life. The Lord is good to us – always good to us – and will be good to us whether we deserve this goodness or not.

Look at the world around you – has not God blessed you? The greatest concern that many of you have today

<sup>8</sup> G3341, **μετάνοια**, *metanoia*, (pronounced *met-an'-oy-ah*), From G3340; (subjectively) *compunction* (for guilt, including *reformation*); by implication *reversal* (of [another's] decision): - repentance.

is when the preacher is going to stop preaching so you can go and eat. If your heart is beating – and I hope it is – this is because God is good. If you have a home and a family, this is because God is good. If you are a child, born of Christian parents, how good life is for you! If your parents are with the Lord and no longer by your side, He has promised to keep them while He bids you to repentance and faith in Him. You will see them again if you are saved by faith in Christ – if not, the goodness of God begs you to surrender to Him.

God has spared your life so far – is He not good? If you have been blessed of God, then return to Jesus' feet and serve God by worshiping Him. Do like the Samaritan leper:

**Luke 17:15-19 ... when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, (16) And fell down on [his] face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. (17) And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where [are] the nine? (18) There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. (19) And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.**

God has been so good to each one of us. God has said to Dark Death time and time again, **“This one is Mine – I will give him or her another day in which to serve**

**Me. You may not touch them today, Death, for I wish to be good one more day.”** God has been good to you, dear ones, and He has been good to me. Look outwardly, and see His goodness. **The goodness of God leads us to repentance.**

If you know Christ as Savior, when you look outward remember that **the goodness of God leads to repentance.** God wants as many as will to repent and turn from their present, dead, weak life and to turn to Him Who alone has the **keys of death and of hell (Revelation 1:18).**

Dr. R.G. Lee spoke of a young man who rejected the Cross of Christ. He said<sup>9</sup>:

**“One day I received a telephone call from ... the Charity Hospital of New Orleans ... "Pastor, there is a young man down here whose name we do not know, who will not tell us his name. ... He is going to die. He says that you are the only preacher in New Orleans that he has ever heard -- and he has never seen you. He wants to see you. Will you come down?" "Yes," I replied. And I quit what I was doing and hurried down to the hospital. ... In a place by itself, somewhat removed from all other cots and beds, was a bed on which lay a young man about nineteen or twenty years of age -- big of frame, though the ravages of disease had brought a slenderness. ... As kindly as I could, I spoke, saying "Hello. ... Is there something I can do for you?" I asked as kindly as I could speak. "No. Nothing! Not a thing. Nothin' 'tall! -- unless you**

**throw my body to the buzzards when I am dead -- if the buzzards will have it!" ... "I sent for you, sir, because I want you to tell these young fellows here something for me. ... I want you to tell 'em ... that the Devil pays only in counterfeit money." ... There was a desperate earnestness in the young man's voice as he looked at me with wild eyes where terror was enthroned. After while I saw those eyes become as though they were glass as he gazed at the ceiling above. I saw his huge lean chest heave like a bellows. I felt his hand clutch at mine as a drowning man would grab for a rope. I held his hand. ... When he died, the .. nurse called me to her, excitedly. "Come here!" she called. "What do you want, child?" I asked. "I want to wash your hands [with disinfectant]!" ... "It's dangerous to touch him!"**

**The Devil had paid the young man off in counterfeit money.”**

May God touch your hearts with these words.