

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“Before you call the snail a weakling, tie your house to your back and carry it around for a week.”

~Ayòbámi Adébayò, Nigerian novelist

“Before pointing fingers make sure your hands are clean.”

~Bob Marley (1945-1981), Jamaican singer and songwriter

“People get addicted to feeling offended all the time because it gives them a high; being self-righteous and morally superior feels good.”

~Mark Manson, author and blogger

“We judge people in areas where we’re vulnerable to shame, especially picking folks who are doing worse than we’re doing. If I feel good about my parenting, I have no interest in judging other people’s choices. If I feel good about my body, I don’t go around making fun of other people’s weight or appearance. We’re hard on each other because we’re using each other as a launching pad out of our own perceived deficiency.”

~Brené Brown, academic, podcaster, and writer

“We judge ourselves by our intentions. And others by their actions.”

~Stephen Covey (1932-2012), educator, author, businessman

“There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous.”

~Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician and philosopher, in his *Pensées* (534)

“Nothing can damn a man but his own righteousness; nothing can save him but the righteousness of Christ.”

“The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation.”

~Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), famed London preacher

“Self-justification and judging others go together, as justification by grace and serving others go together.”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), pastor-theologian executed for his opposition to the Nazis

**SERMON** – “Judging the Self-Appointed Judge” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Romans 2:1-16 (ESV)*

*Romans 1*

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse....

<sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>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.

*Romans 2*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. <sup>2</sup>We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup>Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup>But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>He will render to each one according to his works: <sup>7</sup>to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; <sup>8</sup>but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. <sup>9</sup>There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, <sup>10</sup>but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup>For God shows no partiality.

<sup>12</sup>For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup>For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. <sup>14</sup>For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup>They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them <sup>16</sup>on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.