

# Walking Through Romans to Christ

## Romans chapter 2 “The Righteous Judgment of God”

Righteousness by Faith Series

**REVIEW:** In lesson 1 we discovered the sinfulness of mankind, and the power of the gospel message of Jesus Christ to deliver us from sin and from death. “...for it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe...” (Romans 1:16). This gospel message is the foundational message of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. It can be found entirely outlined in the 1<sup>st</sup> Angel of **Revelation 14:6,7**. The Everlasting Gospel\*worship the Creator\*to all peoples\*give glory to Him (honor His plan). In chapter 2 of Romans we find a new element introduced—**The Judgment** (of God’s people and the world) (comp. Rev.14:7)

### 1. The folly of Men Judging One another (v.1-4)

- a. We don’t know the “counsels of the hearts” (**1 Corinthians 4:5**) (inside vs. the outside)
- b. **We cannot make ourselves the Rule for others.** In university I sang in a choir. We had many great singers. On one particular song, the guy in the row just behind me kept making the same mistake over and over. He was an excellent singer, but he couldn’t get it. I thought, why can’t the guy just get it right? It wasn’t too hard for me. But, then the thought struck me. I’m not really even the greatest singer, compared to that guy behind me. He’s actually better than me. I’ve made so many mistakes in choir practice. And actually, if the choir director wanted to call me out on all my mistakes, I’d be in some real serious trouble! I better just forget about this situation, because the Lord knows our director has been so merciful with me. So often, it’s very easy for us to look at and point out the mistakes of others, and be blind to our own various mistakes. But, if the inspecting judge (choir director) wants to call us out on our own sins, we’d be in real trouble!
- c. “To his own master he stands or falls” (**Romans 14:4**). Let God be the Judge! The “goodness” and mercy of God is what leads us to repentance (2:4).

### 2. The Righteous Judgment of God: (v.5-10)

- a. Judged by our works. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14**; Revelation 22:12). *Fearing God*= obedience to Him.
  - i. Not saved by our works at all (**Ephesians 2:8, 9**). But you can be LOST by your works if you CHOOSE to hold on to sin rather than to Repent (**Hebrews 10:26; Ezekiel 33:11**). God does not punish you for a single mistake here or there if you repent of it, and the trend of your life is in the direction to obey and follow him. God looks mercifully at His creatures, and through confession of their sin, their mistakes are washed away by the blood of Jesus.
- b. **A choice to Hold onto sin** destroys the work of the Holy Spirit (**John 16:8**)
  - i. **“If we confess...” “... and forsake”** our sins we will find mercy from God surely (**1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13**)
- c. Two Choices: Disobedience to Destruction OR Obedience to Life

### 3. God’s STANDARD in the Judgment (v.11-16)

- a. **Standard for God’s People—The Law** (God will not justify anyone living an openly sinful life, and merely calling themselves by the name of Jesus)

- i. See in the Sanctuary. You can find Jesus—the Mediator, the Lambs blood, the “Mercy Seat”, and the foundation of God’s government—His holy law—the Ten Commandments. All of these things existed simultaneously in the Sanctuary)
  - b. **Standard for Heathen—Judged by the fact that they know better.** (no excuses) Even people who don’t have the written law of God still know about many things that are right or wrong. They do have a conscience and God seeks to speak unto their mind.
  - c. (v.16) “...in the Day when God shall Judge” (since 1844 we’ve been living in the Judgment Hour of earth’s history. The prophecies of Daniel make this clear. See Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14). When this finishes, rewards will be served (Revelation 22:11, 12).
4. **Jews, Christians, Adventists—Being a Holder of the Law** (Name and Profession **vs.** Conversion)
- a. **(v.17-25) To those having the righteous law of God, are you keeping it?** Or are you breaking it? The name of God is dishonored when those who have His righteous law have knowingly chose to disobey His righteous precepts (v.24). **You might have a nice “profession” on the outside** (you say you are God’s follower and can teach his word), but how do you actually live? And what are you allowing to happen on the inside of your heart, even if your outer actions do not appear bad to those looking on. Your mere profession of faith/belief is nothing if you don’t obey and follow God’s words (v.25).
  - b. Jesus said, make clean “first the INSIDE of the cup, so that the OUTSIDE may be clean also” **(Matthew 23:25,26)**. **Jesus wants to purify** every soul from the inside out. Not just to have some mere outward actions, without truly having a pure heart and mind!
  - c. Conversion (the Inside of the Cup)—this is what makes the difference.—**THE ROOT of your WORKS. —the INNER LIFE—FAITH that saves—not works—but True Faith PRODUCES RIGHTEOUS WORKS!!**
  - d. **God looks at the heart** and sees all things.
  - e. **(v.26, 27) The Gentile will JUDGE you if your High Profession and Works don’t add up.** *Maybe they were more righteous than those who claimed to be righteous at times!!!*
  - f. **(v.28, 29) Having an INNER LIFE OF FAITH makes you a Christian, not church books.**

**Today’s Appeal:** *If you know your inner life is not right with God, then it’s time to confess your sins to Him. You can fool everyone else perhaps, but not God. Ask the Lord to come into your heart and purify the spring of the waters (the source of your works), not merely the waters (works). Will you ask Him just now to do so for you? \_\_\_\_\_*