

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Thursday, September 2, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 125*
 Proverbs 1:1-19
 Romans 2:1-11

Today's Scripture Verse: *Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. (Romans 2:1)*

What it means: In chapter one, Paul has listed a whole range of behaviors that he regards as wrong, and it looks like he is going to conclude that people need to be judged for such behaviors, but in chapter two, Paul condemns us for judging others, when we ourselves are also guilty of sinful acts. This turn in Paul's logic is critical. It says that the purpose of morality is not that we become judges of one another, but that we examine ourselves instead.

Our time of reflection: As Jesus said that only a sinless person should cast the stone of judgment against another, may we learn to see the religious laws of justice and compassion as tools to examine our own hearts, and not as ways to condemn others for ways they behave that differ from our ways.

