

AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, LET GOD DO IT!

Romans 12:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Difficult things God asks us to do
 - 1) Living the transformed life is not easy
 - 2) *verse 14 - "Bless them that persecute you..."*
 - 3) *verse 17 - "Recompense no man for evil..."*

- B. Jesus taught this truth
 - 1) *Matthew 5:38-48*
 - 2) This is the teaching unique to Him

- C. Jesus lived by this principle
 - 1) He never took revenge or returned evil for evil
 - 2) The money changers made Him angry. They had made His father's house one of merchandise.

- D. Jesus dies by this principle
 - 1) *Isaiah 53:7 - "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."*
 - 2) *Luke 23:34 - "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do."*

- I. God's Promise to the Persecuted *verse 19*
 - A. *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves"*
 - 1) *"avenge" = εκδικεω = "to revenge", "to punish", "execute right and justice", "maintain one's rights"*
 - 2) It is not wrong, it is the wrong time!
 - 3) *"Never take vengeance into your own hands, my friends"*
Phi.

B. *"but rather give place unto wrath;"*

- 1) *"give"* = δίδωμι = "to freely give", "persecute", In some instances, to yield, commit.
- 2) *"place"* = τοπος = "a spot", "a particular place"
- 3) *"but leave the field clear for God's wrath"*
- 4) *"wrath"* = οργη = "anger, together with the desire for revenge", from Hebrew, "to kill" Mon.

C. *"for it is written, vengeance is mine;"*

- 1) *"vengeance"* = εκδικησις = "execution of right and justice", "maintenance of right"
- 2) *Deut. 32:35-43 (35 & 43)*
- 3) The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament.

D. *"...I will repay, saith the Lord"*

- 1) *"repay"* = ανταποδιδωμι = "to give back instead of something received", "in place of"
- 2) Who makes this promise? *"Saith the Lord"*

II. Jesus and the Parable of the Unjust Judge

A. *Luke 18:1-8 - Don't get discouraged*

- 1) *"men ought always to pray and not to faint"*
- 2) *"ought"* = δει = "It is necessary from the nature of the case"
- 3) *"faint"* = εκκακω = "to lose one's courage", "to be faint hearted in the face of trial"

B. The souls under the altar

- 1) *Revelation 6:9-11*
- 2) *Hebrews 11:36-39*

C. Jesus will be the Avenger

- 1) He is our Kinsman *Deut. 19:11-13*
- 2) *II Thess. 1:4-12*

III. How to Intensify Your Tormentors Wrath

A. *"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him;" vs. 20*

- 1) "enemy" = εχθρος = "hating another, actively"
- 2) "hunger" = πεινᾶω = "to be hungry", "long for"
- 3) "feed" = ψωμιζω = "to feed by putting little bits into the mouth, as nurses do children"

B. *"...if he thirst, give him drink;"*

- 1) "thirst" = διψᾶω = "to thirst", "to be athirst"
- 2) "drink" = ποτιζω = "to let drink, give drink"

C. *"for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."*

- 1) "heap" = σωρεύω = "to heap one thing on another"
- 2) "coals" = ανθραξ = "live or burning charcoal"
- 3) This activity will enhance his suffering!
- 4) Paul and the stoning of Stephen

IV. How to be the Victor *verse 21*

A. *"Be not overcome of evil,"*

- 1) "overcome" = νικᾶω = "to come off victor"
- 2) "evil" = κακος = "bad", "every form of evil"
- 3) "Never let evil conquer you"

B. *"but overcome evil with good"*

- 1) "overcome" = νικᾶω
- 2) "evil" = κακος
- 3) "good" = αγαθος = "good", "good of every kind"
- 4) "Conquer evil by doing good"

C. This negates our need for revenge!

- 1) Do this instead of doing evil

V. Why We Should Leave Revenge to God

A. God knows all the facts

- 1) We don't!
- 2) We could make a mistake!
- 3) We might punish the wrong person

B. God knows how to do it

- 1) He knows our tormentors dreams
- 2) He knows their weaknesses
- 3) He know when they hurt

C. God knows when to do it

- 1) We are impatient
- 2) God is not affected by time
- 3) He sees ahead

D. God has the resources to do it

- 1) He has angels as His servants
- 2) He has power and authority

E. We might be suffering as an evil doer

- 1) *I Peter 4:12-19*
- 2) *Verse 15 - "The power", would be responsible to do it's duty.*
- 3) Jim Bakker

F. God tells us not to!

- 1) He always knows best
- 2) We should follow His teaching!