

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 11/14-15/2022 *Romans Chapter 12:10-21!***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of the Book of Romans: "Righteousness by Faith" – 1:16-17;**

***Romans Chapter 12:10-21***

***Review: (Rom 12:9) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.***

Just a thought on abhorring evil. Remember how Jesus addressed the woman, caught in adultery in (*Joh 8:10-11*) *When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" [11] She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

**You do not have to respond violently or loudly at people in that place of evil.** All you have to do is just say it in gentleness from a holy life and that will be the loudest thing in a human heart! When they

walk away from that, where that evil is abhorred, stood against it, but in a gentleness that looks like Christ's way. A favorite Proverb is (*Pro 25:15b*) ***A gentle tongue breaks a bone!*** When something is right in a situation and it said in gentleness, it is as impossible to ignore as a broken bone. You do not have to go crazy and be unlike Christ, doing wild things that people do sometimes in resisting sin. It can be resisted in a powerful way that looks like Christ!

**TEXT:**

**(Rom 12:10-21)** *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; [11] not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; [12] rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; [13] distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. [14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. [16] Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. [17] Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. [18] If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. [19] Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. [20] Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

**Marks of the True Christian – Vs. 9-21**

- **We see a break here to deal more with the general conduct and behavior** of Christians as individuals in their relationship to their fellow Christians and beyond that in their relationship to people in general in the world in which they still find themselves. We need to keep in mind that we cannot possibly understand the teachings of this subsection and profit by it unless we constantly bear in mind the teaching of the first two verses of the chapter, (*Rom 12:1-2*) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* If you do not know and have not experienced what (*Rom 12:1-2*) teaches, it is no use your dealing with this subsection. You will not be able to do it! This is an appeal only to those who are born again.
- **Verse nine** lays down to great principles which **must govern the whole of the life and behavior of the Christian.**
- **Verses ten and eleven** relate to **our general spirit, our general attitude as Christians towards what we are, towards one another and our work.**
- **Verses twelve and thirteen** show us **how we are to react to varying circumstances** both our own and other peoples.
- **Verses fourteen to sixteen – commandments dealing with our reaction to other people,** whereas in verses twelve and thirteen, it was **reaction to circumstances**, but now he deals with **their reaction to people, their behavior,** their conduct and their circumstances.
- **Verse seventeen to the end of the chapter,** there is one special theme, which is **our reaction to wrong and evil.** Then he ends the passage with again a general principle or maxim: ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

**Rom 12:10** *Be kindly affectionate to one another* (fellow believers) ***with brotherly love*** (*phileo, Philadelphia* - love as though they were brethren in blood), ***in honor*** (assess its value, puts a good price on it) ***giving preference to one another;***

- ***Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; Have this concern***, this affection, this brotherly love towards one another. A Christian should feel a closer bond with another Christian than he feels with a relative who is not a Christian. This is true of necessity. The new nature is in us. We are all children of God and belong to the family of God. This is a relationship that will not only last while we are in this world of time, but will last throughout eternity. In view of these things, Paul says make certain that your brotherly love, one to another, is being manifested more and more. This happens by meditation, by grasping the truth, by applying this ‘*therefore*,’ by reminding yourself of all the doctrine that has gone before, realizing that this is true of you, praying that the Spirit may not only so enlighten you, but may so fill your heart with love! Love to God and to your fellow human beings, that you find that this becomes increasingly true! Even if a relationship with your biological family continues on a physical kind of level, when we come to know the Lord, the things that are most important to us in life are not important to them. We have become a part of another family, where we understand one another, because we understand higher things! So, *we are to be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love!*
- ***In honor giving preference to one another - Reverence and respect to our believing brothers and sisters!*** Paul applies that to our relationship with others. It refers to what we think of them, our evaluation of them and of their gifts. This in turn becomes the respect that we show to one another. *In honor preferring one another!* It carries the idea of reverence and of respect, which determines our behavior toward them, how we treat them, especially how we treat them in terms of ourselves, which is very important. We have already seen in the earlier part of the chapter that we have all received gifts from God through the grace given to me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.
- ***In honor giving preference to one another. Treat our believing brothers and sisters with the best experience possible!*** When we come together like this, we realize that some of the men and women and most of them perhaps, as they come into a church service or Bible study, that they have really gone through it out in that world today. They are living for the Lord. They are they are paying a price. Some of them are losing jobs. Then they come into this place, and it is just like, okay, how can I serve them? How can I make this experience be the best experience it can be? We are to have that attitude towards the rest of the body of Christ. Let him back out, first, of the parking spot! Just wave at them, giving preference to one another! They have had enough of a battle! All of do in battling against this fallen world! We do not need to be fighting with one another!
- ***In honor giving preference to one another. Give up your rushing to be first in line!*** This is something I have noticed is sadly missing so often among Christian people, in honor, preferring one another. That is stepping back and letting someone else go first. Do not rush to be at the head of the line. Do not push ahead of others. In honor, preferring one another. That is graciousness toward each other.

***Rom 12:11 not lagging in diligence*** (in zeal, not slothful), ***fervent*** (to boil, to be aglow) ***in spirit, serving the Lord;***

- ***Not lagging in diligence*** (in zeal, eagerness, not lagging in passion, enthusiasm), ***fervent*** (to boil, to be hot, to be aglow) ***in spirit, serving the Lord.*** Then he said, *not lagging in diligence*, which literally means speed, having the idea of eagerness and earnestness. We are not to be lagging in passion, in enthusiasm.
- ***No lukewarmness!*** We are never to be lukewarm in the body of Christ. You show me a lukewarm Christian and I will show you a person who is wide open to being dominated by sin. If a person cannot be passionate about God and about the salvation that has been described in those eleven chapters, something is wrong with that person! Something else has come into that Christian's life and has stolen their heart away, taking away their passion and emotion. They become lukewarm!

- **Lukewarmness makes our Lord sick!** Jesus, in speaking to the Laodicean church (*Rev 3:15-16*) "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. [16] So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will vomit you out of My mouth.** As we think of that, maybe for the first time, that my lukewarmness makes God sick! We should never be lukewarm in our relationship with Christ! There is no cause for lukewarmness! So the importance here and it is a real key to holiness isn't it? That there would be no *lagging in diligence!*
- **Fervent in Spirit!** With enthusiasm! Being excited in the things of God as you are *serving the Lord!* It is important to realize that I am actually serving God. Not serving people. (*Col 3:23-24*) *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.* If you do it as to the Lord, then you will not get upset when people snap at you for what you have done, even though you have done it out of kindness, trying to help them. They say, what are you doing that for? Leave me alone! Well, I was doing it as to the Lord. A lot of times people will not respond like you really wish or want them to respond. So, as to the Lord, serving the Lord.
- **We see numerous examples of zeal and fervency in the Scriptures.** Jesus in cleansing the temple, early and late in His ministry, (*Joh 2:16-17*) *And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" [17] Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE HAS EATEN ME UP.*
- **David when he saw Goliath, (1Sa 17:26)** *Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*
- **Elisha at the time of Elijah's departure, (2Ki 2:9)** *And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."*
- **We must remember that the Spirit is within us and that we must not allow** anything to quench the Spirit or to keep the flame of the Spirit burning low! We must not grieve or quench the Spirit! (*Eph 4:30*) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (1Th 5:19) Do not quench the Spirit.*
- **We are not to rely on our strength, but on the Holy Spirit!** This is not an exhortation to tell you only to rouse yourself on the natural level. Paul is not asking you to turn yourself into something that you are not. He is not just asking you to be a busy kind of person. No, no! Paul is telling you to let the energy of the Holy Spirit work in you and manifest itself through you, to turn away the hindrances and the obstacles and to maintain the glow. We cannot produce the fire, but we can maintain the glow! (*2Ti 1:7*) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.* We must not quench the Spirit! We must take these positive and active steps, working it out on the basis of (*Rom 12:1-2*), moving quickly and not wasting time! Buying up the opportunity.
- **Serving the Lord!** Now Paul raises to the highest height, giving us the ultimate antidote to any tendency to slothfulness in the Christian life. That is serving the Lord! This is a wonderful thought, being in a way, the key to everything else! It certainly is the supreme motive, always, in Christian living and service. It applies to everyone in the Christian church and to every aspect of our activity. There is only one answer to all the troubles that arise from looking at ourselves. And this is *serving the Lord!*

***Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient (persevering) in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;***

- **Rejoicing in hope;** Oh, today when the world is so hopeless! Things are getting so bad. We have a glorious hope! (*1Pe 1:3-4*) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection*

of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. Paul prayed (**Eph 1:17-18a**) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, [18a] the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling. Oh, if we only knew what God has in store for His church, for the Body of Christ! If you only knew the glory that God is going to reveal to us in that glorious, heavenly kingdom! So, we rejoice in that hope, that is ours in and through Christ Jesus. No matter how hard things get in this world, that we lose our joy and a loss of joy, tending to cause us to drift back. Joy is a key to holiness. There is always a source of joy in our life in the hope the confidence that one day we are going to be in heaven for all the hardship that may be a part of our life, on the other side of this it all ends in heaven for us!

- **Patient in tribulation;** Now the Scripture tells that *tribulation* produces *patience*. The purpose that God allows us to go through trials often, is to develop this patience and faith. He declares that we have to be *patient in tribulation*, which often is a crushing, suffocating kind of trial. God makes it clear that, that can be our portion in life as Christians on this side of glory, but He tells us that in the middle of even those kinds of trials, we are to be *patient in tribulation*. We are never to allow it to cause us to quit. We are to continue on under that. Never, ever are we to quit because of difficulty!
- **How can we go through?** We have been told of the way. (**Joh 16:33**) *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" As He has overcome it, He will enable us to overcome it too! In Him, we shall be more than conquerors. (**Rom 8:35,37**) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [37] Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*
- **Continuing steadfastly in prayer;** This is so important! We are to always pray, making sure that He is there! (**Jas 4:8**) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.* Speak to Him. He will speak to you. You will feel His presence! He will give you strength. Then you will be able to say, (**Php 4:13**) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Men always ought to pray and not to faint, (**Luk 18:1b**) *Men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

**Rom 12:13 distributing** (*koinonia* – entering into, pursuing into fellowship with saints’ necessities) **to the needs of the saints** (believers), **given** (pursuing, seeking after) **to hospitality** (loving, fondness, affection for strangers).

- **Distributing to the needs of the saints;** He tells us here that we are to distribute, to enter into, to pursue into fellowship the needs, not the necessities, of saints, believers, members of the body of Christ! We are to look out for a believer’s physical needs!
- **Given (pursuing) to hospitality.** We are to be pursuing, seeking after, having an affection for strangers. It is the idea of zest, zeal, keenness and pursuit of something. Not just “given to” hospitality, but really going after it, going out for it, pursuing it, seeking it, following after, pressing toward the mark, as it were. The believers in those days did not have all these hotels that we have today. When they travelled through a city as a believer, sometimes the only safe place that you could stay was in another believer’s house. So in inviting them in, opening up the hospitality was an expression of holiness toward the body of Christ.
- **What is the application?** This is exactly the same teaching as our Lord gives it in *Luke 16*, The parable of the unjust steward. Here, Paul says to teach us believers, in their use of money. To be ready to distribute, willing to communicate. Teach them that in this way they are really laying up in store for themselves in the world to come to this great balance as it were they are doing it here, they will reap the reward there. Give them this right view, this right perspective. If they do this, tell them they will have a firm hold on that assurance of eternal life itself. This is a great encouragement of all of us to implement these application instructions here in this verse. Enter into fellowship with all saints, who are in need.

- **Pursue, seek after, this love of strangers. Practice hospitality, kindness to others.** As you do, you will be pleasing your Lord and Master. You will be certain of receiving from Him, that final, most desired word, saying well done, good and faithful servant. You have entertained many an angel unawares even in this life. You will have made certain of your eternal bliss in the glory of lasting and you will be welcomed there not only by the Lord himself but by these people, as we read in, (**Luk 16:9**) *"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.*

**Rom 12:14 Bless** (speak well of) **those who persecute you; bless and do not curse** (opposite of blessing).

- **Verses 14-21 really form a new section**, looking from a different angle at the position of Christians, of **how they are to react to those** who tend to do things to us. Paul tells us how we should conduct ourselves in the light of this. What is to be our reaction to them? We are told.
- ***Bless them who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*** This is to be our reaction to persecution. Here we see a very plain instruction: *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* The literal meaning of the word, 'bless' is 'speak to them good.' It comes to this: pray for those who persecute you; Speak good to them, even to God. Ask God to deal with them and to be merciful to them, doing good in the highest way that you know of, which is to pray for them! Then, Paul, putting it negatively says, '
  - ***Bless and do not curse***, or translated, stop cursing them! Rather you must *bless* them! The instinctive tendency is to curse your persecutors, but Paul says, stop cursing! We need to understand that 'do not curse' is not referring to swearing. Christians are not tempted to swear at people. No, it means this: stop calling down a curse on them! That is our danger. Our danger is not the use of expletives or bad language, but of asking God to curse these people. So, call down God's blessing upon them, instead of calling upon God to curse them!
  - **We have a clear statement of this whole subject in (**Luk 9:54-56**)** *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" [55] But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. [56] For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.* Now there it is given to us perfectly. So stop cursing and do the exact opposite! Ask God to send down a blessing upon them!
  - **We might say, but that is the Son of God! That is a standard that is too high** for me! I cannot aspire to that! We remember that Stephen did, and we should aspire to that as well! (**Act 7:60**) *Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.* It is possible for us, the disciples, to rise to the height of our blessed Master. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. Bless them which persecute you. Bless and curse not. So you will show that you are children of your Father, who is in heaven, and that something of the divine nature that was in your blessed Lord, is also in you!

**Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.**

- ***Rejoice with those who rejoice!*** **When someone has been blessed and is rejoicing** over what God has done, do not be jealous. Do not say, why would God do it for them and not for me? But rejoice with them! Oh, praise the Lord! That is wonderful! I am so thrilled that you have gotten that promotion! Oh, bless the Lord!
- **Is not rejoicing more difficult than weeping?** The apostle probably puts rejoicing first in order to emphasize it, challenging us with what is more difficult before he puts the less difficult. It is simpler for us to be sympathetic toward those who are down, than it is to rejoice with those who are up! The ultimate problem with every human being is the problem of self, the problem of pride. The self is always looking at itself, wanting to be considered great and important. When a

person is rejoicing, then he has some cause. He has been successful. He has a piece of good fortune. We tend to be correspondingly jealous! It certainly is unnatural to rejoice with those who rejoice. We remember the brother in the parable of the prodigal son, (**Luk 15:23-24**) *And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; [24] for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.*

- **And weep with those who weep.** Those that are going through sorrow. Join with them. Weep with those that weep, meaning to put the emotional condition of another person ahead of myself and of my situation. *To weep with those who weep* is more or less natural. It is the most exceptional person who is not touched by the sight of someone else weeping. When a person is weeping it means that for the time being, he or she is humbled in difficulties. This makes it much easier for us to weep. It is simpler for us to be sympathetic toward those who are down, than it is to rejoice with those who are up.
- (**Joh 11:33-36**) *Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. [34] And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." [35] Jesus wept. [36] Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"*
- (**1Co 12:25-26**) *that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. [26] And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

**Rom 12:16** *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind (stop doing it) on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

- **Be of the same mind one toward another.** The unity in the body of Christ. In (**Rom 15:5-7**) *Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, [6] that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [7] Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. (2 Cor. 13:11) Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*
- **Do not set your mind on high things.** In terms of ambition. Stop doing it! Jesus said, (**Mark 10:43-45**) *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. [44] And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. [45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
- **But associate with the humble.** Do not be haughty. Do not have a feeling of superiority or that feeling of condescending. Do not set your mind in high things. (**Mat 18:1-3**) *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" [2] Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, [3] and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
- **Do not be wise in your own opinion.** But in such a way that you are not condescending. We were told that before in (**Rom 11:25**) *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Pro 3:7) Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.*

**Rom 12:17** *Repay no one evil for evil. Have (provide good) regard for good things in the sight of all men.*

- **Repay no one evil for evil.** I'll get even with you! Jesus spoke also about that in (**Mat 5:38-42**) *"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' [5:39] But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn*

the other to him also. [40] If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. [41] And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. [42] Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. Don't repay evil for evil. Never think, I'll get even. No!

- **Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.** Be open. Do not have hidden agendas. Open and sincere. (*1Pe 3:8-12*) Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; [9] not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. [10] For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. [11] LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. [12] FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

**Rom 12:18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

- **If it is possible**, which means this: Live at peace with all men unless they make it quite impossible for you to do so! The doubt is not in you but in them. There are people who behave in such a way that peace is impossible. If it is possible -- there are circumstances in which this is not possible. This is the first qualification.
- **As much as depends on you.** The second qualification is the important one! *As much as depends on you*, which means you must never be the cause of trouble! That strife must never be because of you, because of what you are, because of what you do. Paul says if they do not make it impossible as far as you are concerned, as far as it rests in your control of power, live peaceably with all men! You cannot always prevent friction. You cannot prevent someone else what they are thinking or what they are doing as far as contention or whatever. But as much as lies in you, do not let the cause of the friction be from your side!
- **Live peaceably with all men.** It reflects a desire for peace - (*Mat 5:9*) *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.* (*Eph 4:3,15a*) *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* [15] *but, speaking the truth in love.* (*Col 3:15*) *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* (*Heb 12:14*) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

**Rom 12:19** Beloved (believers), do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place (make room for) to (the) wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

- **Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath!** Do not take vengeance but rather give place to the wrath that you feel. Put it aside. When we feel that we have been violated, we get angry. We want vengeance. But do not avenge yourself. *But rather give place to the wrath.* We must never seek personal vengeance – never. Because that is God's work and not ours!
- **For it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.** Do not take vengeance. If you have been wronged. If you have been cheated. If you have some of your goods taken by fraud or by force, commit it to the Lord. He said, *Vengeance is mine; I will repay.* You do not have to get even yourself. You do not have to take it into your hands to avenge yourself. Just commit it to the Lord! Say okay, Lord, take care of it. David would do this. He would say, Lord, break their teeth in their mouth. Leave it with God. *Vengeance is mine; I will repay,* says the Lord. It refuses to seek revenge. Remember, if we avenge ourselves, it only cause more work for our Lord to straighten out the situation!
- (*Lev 19:18*) **You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**

- (Pro 20:22) *Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.*
- (Heb 10:30-31) *For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

**Rom 12:20** *Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD."*

- **Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK.** This verse is taken almost literally from (Pro 25:21-22). Hunger and thirst are put here for want in general. If your enemy is in need in any way, do good to him. Supply his needs. This is, in spirit, the same as the command of the Lord Jesus (Mat 5:44) *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.* How can I do that? You cannot, except through the grace of the Spirit of God working in your life. How many times enemies have become friends because someone has reached out in kindness to them? If your enemy is hungry, feed him.
- **IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK;** In other words, you are not to take the vengeance. You are not to get even. You are not to respond in kind. They are unkind. You are not to be unkind, back. If your enemy is hungry feed him. And so you will heap coals of fire on his head. Now, going back, God said, do not avenge yourself. Vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord. You see if they continue in that, God will take care of them. God will heap the coals of fire on their head. So the idea is, as we do good, as we commit the vengeance to God. God will take care of them. We do not have to worry about that.
- **FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD."** This likely means you will surely cause pain, not physical pain, but the pain of shame and remorse. As the result of your kindness, your enemy will have an intense feeling of shame and remorse, feeling a kind of burning, a keen anguish in his mind, heart and spirit, to such an extent that it will lead him to self-examination and repentance! It will so shock him, that he will begin to reconsider what he has done to you, recognizing how terribly wrong it is! And it will lead to his repentance!
- **He will probably be more miserable at this point than he has ever been before,** certainly much more miserable than he was when he acted in such an unkind manner. Remorse and repentance can be extremely painful. By treating your enemy in this truly Christian way, you cause him to pass through this trial condemning himself, not knowing what to do with himself! It is not guaranteed that your enemy may respond this way but that is not our responsibility. Our task is to do everything you can to bring him to that condition. We thank the Lord that this kind of Christian behavior has often led to very desirable results. Showing such kindness has been used of God to lead many to salvation, many who have been opposed to the gospel. Regardless of the result, this is what we are told to do.

**Rom 12:21** *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

- **Do not be overcome by evil. If you take vengeance you are allowing evil and sin to overcome you** to have a victory over you! If you allow what this other person does to you, getting you to become angry and all, then you have been defeated not by the person, but by the devil! As Christians, we should not be disturbed in spirit! We should not be agitated. Christians should never lose the peace of God and the peace of Christ. The power of evil is something which we should ever keep in the forefront of our mind. We are told here to see evil, rather than the person or persons! To see the devil, rather than the particular thing that is being done! This is the essence of the teaching at this point.
- **But overcome evil with good.** Paul is not merely teaching us to hold evil at bay, merely not to give into sin. No, Christians are to overcome evil! They are to be more than conquerors! They are to be victors! They are to get it down, instead of allowing it to get them down! We must

remember that we are to **overcome evil with good!** There is nothing else that can overcome evil, but good!

- **How is it possible to overcome evil with good?** We are told here, not to be defeated but to get the victory! One of the best ways is to show kindness to the enemy! (**Rom 12:20a**) *Therefore "IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK.* Whatever it is that he is in need of, go to him, assisting him in every way that you possibly can! You overcome evil in yourself by doing this every time you do good to your enemy! You get a victory over the old nature that is still left in you! You are not responding to evil, but mortifying it! You are putting into effect this great principle of the mortification of the deeds of the body, as given to us in (**Rom 8:13**) *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Every time you do this, you are making yourself stronger and better! You are growing in grace!*
- **Keep your eye on the day of triumph that is coming, the certainty of the victory,** the day when He will appear, looking and saying to you, well done good and faithful servant! He remembers the time when you did not avenge yourself for His sake because you were thinking of Him and His Kingdom and not of yourself! Looking at everything in this way, you soon come to see what happens to you in this world is comparatively unimportant. So, remember! **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** Fight a battle for the Lord! May we be enabled by the Lord in this way to bring glory and honor to His great and holy name!

#### SUMMARY:

- **We are given here our Lord's own summary** of the commandments. In (**Mar 12:28b-31**) *Then one of the scribes came ..., asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" [29] Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment. [31] And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'* There is no other commandment greater than these.
- **This is a win-win situation! Whenever we overcome evil with good, we gain a victory over evil and the evil one, thereby putting us in a better position for future facings of evil. Also, those to whom we have done good, it is also tending toward victory for them, leading to their repentance! Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.**
- **Revive us again, O God!**

#### CLOSING SONG:

*Rom 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

**REVIVE US AGAIN!** Mark Hayes/William P. Mackay/John J. Husband Gaither (2:07/2:11)

We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love For Jesus Who died And is now gone above

Refrain: Hallelujah! Thine the glory Hallelujah! Amen Hallelujah! Thine the glory Revive us again  
All glory and praise To the Lamb that was slain Who has taken our sins And has cleansed every stain  
(Refrain)

Revive us again Fill each heart with Thy love May each soul be rekindled With fire from above  
(Refrain)

#### CLOSING PRAYER:

**Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 13!**