

— Romans 12.14-21 —
Romans Series 80
Overcome Evil with Good

Rom 12.14 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.

* **What are** some of the misconceptions Christians have had about his text thru the years?

* **What are** two interpretive guideposts we need to keep in mind?

1)

Deut 32.35 "Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time"

Prov 25.21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

2)

* **Four things** this text does not mean.

1) That God's people should give up their _____ under the law. (Acts 22.25; 25.11)

2) That God's people should passively accept _____ under color of authority. (Jn 18.22-23; Acts 16.36-37; 23.2-3)

3) That God's people should passively accept _____ in society. (Mk 6.17-18; Jn 8.44)

4) That God expects his people to be sitting _____. (Mt 2.13-20; 10.23; Acts 9.23-25)

* **Our text** is summed up by vs _____. There is no _____ option. You will either do _____ or the _____.

Mat 28.18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

* **What is** the trap we fall into when we repay evil for evil? (17)

* **We must** distinguish between vindicating ourselves in the _____ & furthering the kingdom for the long term.

Examples:

1) Jesus

Heb 12.2 Jesus ... for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalms 16.10 "You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In your presence is fullness of joy"

Luke 23.24 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

2) Stephen

Acts 7.51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised of heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you" ... 59 Lord Jesus, receive my spirit ... 60 Do not charge them with this sin."

* **We must not** make our immediate vindication the measure of God's _____ and the righteousness it brings. If Jesus had made his immediate vindication from the injustice of others the measure of his kingdom, then he would never have gone to the _____ on our behalf.

* **Jesus kept** _____ himself to his Father while seeking our objective good.

Heb 5.7 [Jesus], in the days of His flesh, ... offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

* **Sacrificing our** short term vindication for the sake of the longterm _____ of others, _____ of Christ, and _____ of his kingdom is necessary for every child of God, for only then do we truly become like the _____.

Mat 5.44 "[L]ove 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, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?"