Romans 12:19 *(NIV) Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Romans 12:19 *(NASU) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.*

****The question is are we willing to turn away from the grudge we harbor deep in our soul, that bitterness to which we tenaciously cling? On one level when we hang onto our grudges, or bitterness we are doubting God's promise to us.

Two quotes from Future Grace help clarify this verse: *"If we believe God's promise, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' then we will not belittle God without our inferior efforts to improve upon his justice. We will leave the matter with him and live in the freedom of love toward our enemy - whether the enemy repents or not."* (Piper pg. 266) *"Vengeance is mine, I will repay. I we believe him, we will not presume to take vengeance into our own hands. Rather we will glorify the all-sufficiency of the cross and the terrible justice of hell by living in the assurance that God, and not we, will set all wrongs right. Ours is to love. God's is to settle accounts justly."* (Piper pg. 268)

PRAYER: Oh God, help me to remember that You know what you are doing. Help me to trust you to repay all wrongs. Help me instead to show Your amazing love especially to those who have wronged me.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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