

Good OVERPOWERS Evil ~ Romans 12:17-21

→Scripture Reading Rom. 12:1-2, 17-21

INTRODUCTION

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Live at PEACE with EVERYONE? ~ Romans 12:17-18

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Anyone can return good for good and evil for evil. The only way to overcome evil is with good. If we return evil for evil, we only add fuel to the fire. Wiersbe

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

How we respond to injustice or personal attacks is more important than getting our own way or proving that we are right. Ingram

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil... ¹⁸ ...live at peace with everyone.

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV) Do NOT repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with BLESSING, because to this you were CALLED SO THAT you may inherit a blessing.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV) Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

³² Be KIND and compassionate to one another, FORGIVING each other, just AS in Christ God forgave you.

Not FORGIVING is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die Lamott

FORGIVENESS - giving up my **RIGHT to GET EVEN** with you for **hurting me** Unknown

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil... ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Why Should we FORGIVE? LABC

- it breaks the cycle of RETALIATION
- it may lead to mutual RECONCILIATION
- it may cause SHAME
- REPAYING evil for evil hurts US
- it Frees us from BITTERNESS

Do NOT take REVENGE ~ Romans 12:19-21

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Vengeance and Judgment are God's Responsibility NOT OURS HNTC

²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT) And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for ANGER gives a foothold to the devil.

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁹ Do not take revenge... ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

Revenge is repaying evil for evil - with INTEREST. Barton

We do NOT take REVENGE because... Holman NT Com

- we are commanded NOT to
- we assume God's AUTHORITY when we DO
- it brings SHAME on the Lord Jesus
- it can cause Great Harm to the GOSPEL

¹⁹ Do NOT take REVENGE... ²⁰ On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink...

Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV) You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. ³⁹ But I tell you, **Do not resist an evil person.** If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

³⁹ But I tell you, **Do not RESIST an evil person...**

¹⁹ 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.**

IMPLICATION

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with GOOD.**

Will they take advantage of us? Will they hate us more? Only the Lord knows. Our task is not to protect ourselves but to obey the Lord and leave the results with Him. Wiersbe

²¹ Do NOT be OVERCOME **by evil**, but **overcome evil with GOOD.**

TAKE AWAY ??

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

² **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider Him who endured such opposition** from sinful men, SO THAT you will not grow weary and lose heart.

² **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...**

³ **Consider HIM who endured such opposition** from sinful men, SO THAT you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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