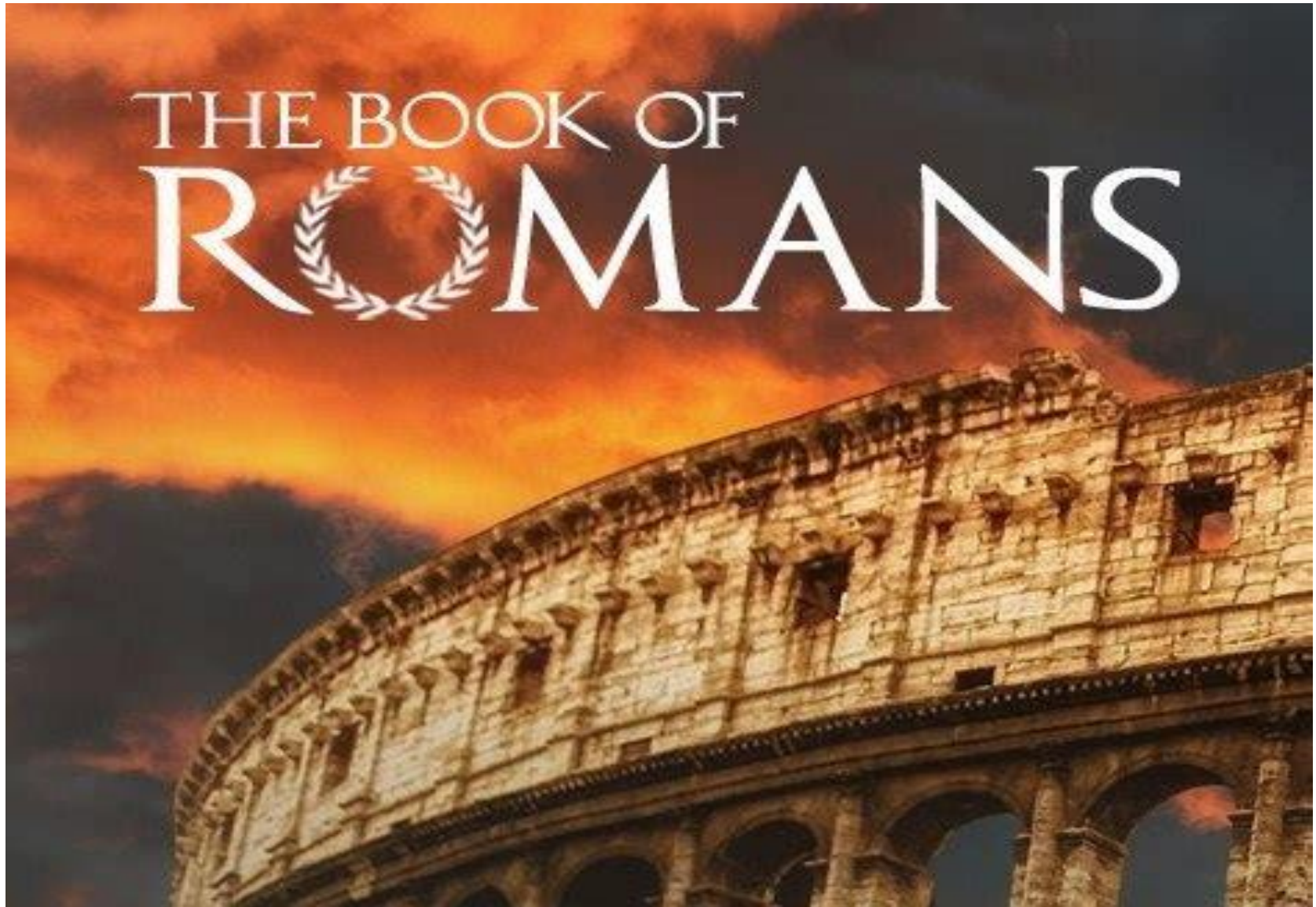


Rom 12:17-19

The Christian's Reaction to Wrongdoing



Chapter 12 High Level Overview*



- The Christian's relationship to God v:1-2
- The Christian's relationship to gifts of the Spirit v:3-8
- The Christian's relationship to other believers v:9-13
- The Christian's relationship to all men v:14-16
- The Christian's reaction to wrongdoing v:17-21

When we are treated in a wrong manner

*McGee/McCalley

16a Be of the same mind toward one another;



[you be] **thinking the same thing toward one another** Interlineal

thinking - *phronéō* - to think, have a mindset, to be minded

the same thing – *to auto* - generally it means the same,
not different (i.e. agreement)

toward – *eis* – with respect **one another**

- **Toward one another** points to the idea of loving unanimity [harmony]. Denney
- Let each so enter into the feelings and desires of the other as to be of one mind with him. Gifford
- It is not uniformity but unanimity of which Paul is speaking here. Alford
- Next verses on **same mindedness**:

16a Be of the same mind toward one another;

[you be] **thinking the same thing toward one another** Interlineal

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- Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of **the same mind** with one another “**according to**” Christ Jesus.
- Phil 2:2 make my joy complete by being of **the same mind**, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- Phil 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in **harmony in the Lord**.

16b not thinking the high things, but being willing to go to the humble things [ones] Interlinear



Now we are given several warnings about our **thinking!**

- The negatives which follow, “introduce clauses: that forbid what would destroy the unanimity of love.” Denney

1st - not thinking the high things

high things - *hypsēlos* - meaning high, highly esteemed, regarded with pride, haughty

- Luke 16:15b but God knows your hearts; for that which is **highly esteemed** among men is detestable in the sight of God.
- Rom 12:3a For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not **to think more highly of himself** than he ought to think.
- **High things** are a continual temptation.

Newell

16b not thinking the high things, but being willing to go to the humble things [ones] Interlinear 

2nd – but being willing to go to the humble things [ones]

but – *alla* – sharp contrast

being willing to go to - *sunapágō* – of being led of or
carried away – present, passive

- *sunapagō*, "to lead away or together," in passive voice, it means "to be carried away with, to yield or submit one's self to" lowly things or conditions Wuest

humble things [ones] - *tapeinós* - of condition or lot, meaning humble, poor, of low degree

2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

16c Do not be wise in your own estimation.



3rd - Stop being those who are wise in their own opinion*

- The action is assumed to already be going on
- So Paul tells us to stop being wise in our own estimation/opinion

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation

wise - *phronimos* - wise (in your own conceits), lit: wise (in yourselves), i.e., judged by the standard of your self-complacency

Vine

Prov 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

* Wuest

Today's Verses



¹⁷ Never pay back **evil** for **evil** to anyone. **Respect** what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ 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.

What's our reaction to wrongdoing!

:v17 present the issue: paying back evil for evil

:v18 adds being at peace with all men

:19 adds what about revenge

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

to no one returning evil for evil

Interlinear



to no one – lit: no one whoever he may be

- this could be a believer or unbeliever [an individual]
returning - *apodidōmi* - to give up or back, restore, return

- This takes for granted that some will do you evil Newell

evil for evil – lit: evil in exchange for evil Wuest

- 1 Thess 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.
- 1 Peter 3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.



evil for evil (cont.)

- apparently the origin of “two wrongs don’t make a right”
- But, what about just punishment under human government?

Human government:

- Gen 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man. [part of Noahic covenant]"
- Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. [positive response]



taking forethought [for] good things before all men Interlinear

taking forethought [for] - *pronoéō* - take thought, care for
beforehand

- to think through what is right McCalley
- 2 Cor 8:21 for **we have regard for** what is honorable, not only in “the sight of the Lord,” but also in “the sight of men.”

good things - *halos* - exterior goodness, or goodness
that is seen on the exterior of a person*

- the outward expression of an inward goodness* * Wuest

before all men - lit: in the sight of all men

- 1 Pet 2:12a holding your manner of life honest among the Gentiles.
Wuest

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



main subject and particle:

[you] **be at peace** – *eirēnē* – In the NT metaphorically to live in peace, harmony, accord. Zodhiates

present tense – continuous action; active voice – you do it

- lit: live in peace [continually]
- the remainder of the verse modifies this participle

1st - **with all men**

- This narrows the definition of the kind of peace being spoken of [person to person]
- 2 Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, **live in peace**; and “the God of love and peace will be with you.”

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



2nd - If [is] possible

- This is the first of “two conditions” for being at peace
- It is not “if you can”*
- but “if it be possible - if others will allow it” * Alford
- others may not want to be at peace with you
- John 17:14 I have given **them** Your word; and **the world has hated them**, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- **possible** – *dynatos* – “able” is the key idea
- lit: within your power

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



3rd - so far as it depends on you

- This is the second condition for being at peace
- **so far as it depends on you** - *ho* - implies possession, property, or relation
- Matt 5:9a Blessed are **the peacemakers**.
- Matt 5:9a is Kingdom living but now Paul has applied it to the Church age
- In our own interest we are always seeking peace*
- In Christ's interest we are to stand for the truth* *McCalley
- I urge prayers - for all men, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

edited 1 Tim 2:1-2

¹⁹ 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.



[you] **avenging yourselves not, beloved**

Interlinear

lit: Stop avenging yourselves, beloved ones

Wuest

avenging - *ekdikeō* - *ek*, "from," *dikē*, "justice," i.e., that which proceeds from justice

- [not] to execute justice, defend one's cause, maintain one's right Zodhiates
- you are not to be continually avenging yourselves
- **beloved** - spoken only of Christians as united with God or with each other in the bonds of love [*agape*] Vine
- **beloved** is used because Paul is saying something very hard*
- **beloved** is used in a fatherly approach* *McCalley

19 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.



but – *alla* – strong contrast
[you] **leave room**

- This is to be an event in a believer's life [aorist tense]
- The idea is to “give place at once” Wuest

for the wrath of God,

- **Wrath** is preceded by the article, and points to a special wrath, God's wrath.*
- To give place to God's wrath means to leave room for it, **not to take God's proper work “out of” His hands.***
- The idea is not that instead of executing vengeance ourselves, we are **to abandon the offender to the more tremendous vengeance of God.*** *Wuest

19 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.



two final statements:

vengeance [noun] *is mine*,

- a revenging, punishment*
- God cannot be said to have vengeance in the sense that a person has vengeance.*

I will repay, says the Lord

- **Repay** is *antapodidōmi* "to give back or requite."
- 1 Thess 4:6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because **the Lord is the avenger in all these things**, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.

*Wuest

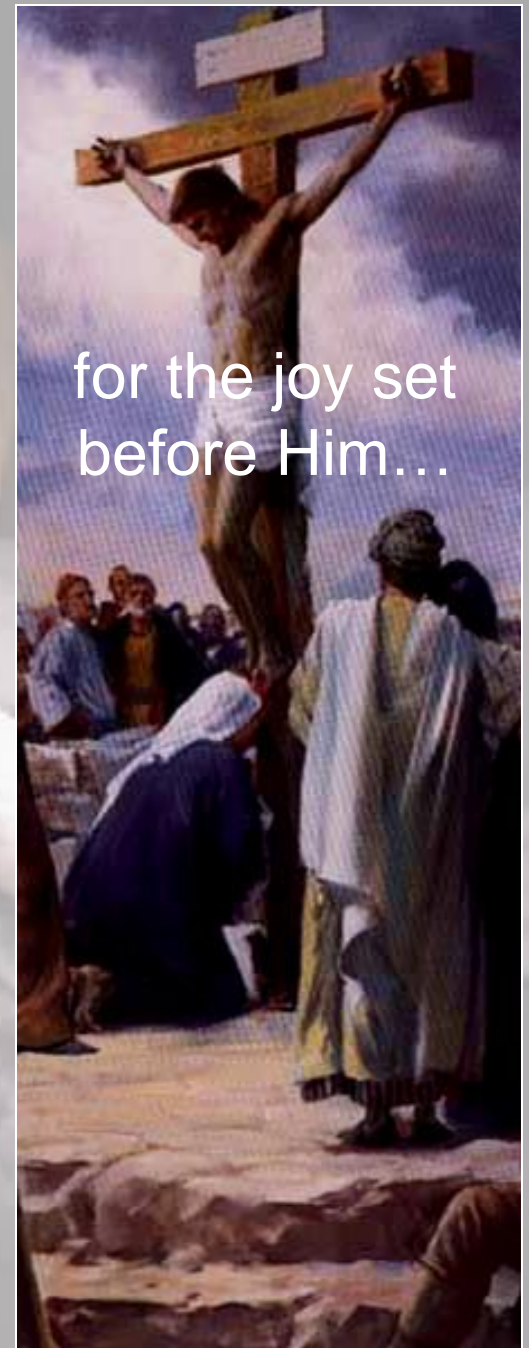


Three methods for obtaining justice:

- **God Himself** – 12:19 Do not be avenging yourselves, beloved ones, but give place at once to the wrath, for it stands written, To me belongs punishment, **I will repay, says the Lord.**
- **Civil government** - 13:4 for **it** is **a minister of God** to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for **it** does not bear the sword for nothing; for **it** is **a minister of God**, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
- **Feed your Enemy** – 12:20b for doing this, you will heap burning coals of fire upon his head.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



for the joy set
before Him...

