

Comments About Romans 12:17

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul's writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed Romans 12:16. This article will discuss Romans 12:17.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:17.

Romans 12:17—"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men."

Do not repay evil for evil

Here are some verses that discuss avoiding the repaying of evil for evil.

Matthew 5:38-39—"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."

1 Peter 2:19—"For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully."

Romans 12:19—"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

Hebrews 10:30—"For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people.' "

Leviticus 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."

Deuteronomy 32:35—"Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; their foot shall slip in due time; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them."

Psalm 94:1—"O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!"

Luke 18:7-8—"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Have regard for good things

Here are some verses that discuss having regard for good things.

Psalm 119:97—"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day."

Psalm 119:103—"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Psalm 119:105—"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Matthew 5:43-48—"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 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, 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. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Philippians 4:8—"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."