

Comments About Romans 12:19

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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 12:18. This article will discuss Romans 12:19.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:19.

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."

Do not avenge yourself

Here are some verses that discuss the avoiding of taking vengeance into your own hands.

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

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."

Psalms 94:1—"O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!"

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."

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."

Give place to wrath

Here are some verses that discuss giving the proper place for wrath.

Ephesians 4:26-27—"Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

James 1:19-20—"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Proverbs 14:29—"He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly."

Proverbs 15:18—"A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention."

Proverbs 16:32—"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

Proverbs 19:11—"The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression."

Proverbs 27:3-4—"A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them. Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?"

Ecclesiastes 7:9—"Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools."