

# Romans 12:14-21

## Doing Good when Evil's Been Done

Before studying this passage, consider your natural responses to

- A person's evil scheming against you
- Threat to your life, blackmail (emotional or physical)
- Gossip about you or your family
- False accusation or lies
- A Divisive person or one sowing dissension

What emotions are natural to us in these situations?

We have a choice before us when wickedness and evil touch our lives. What are the 2 choices we have already studied in Romans 12:2? This is IMPORTANT especially considering the time in which we are living!!!

### Day 1: Read Romans 12:14-21 thoughtfully. . .

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble.

Do not be wise in your own opinion.

<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:14-21 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> 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."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:14-21 (NIV)





## Day 2: Our Response to Persecution & Evil

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil.**

1. Read Romans 12:14 and 17a. Write what our response should be to evil and persecution.
  
2. Does a person or situation immediately come to mind? What exactly is God telling you to do in this situation? Pray about it!
  
3. What does Jesus have to say about persecution in Matthew 5:10-12? Why is this persecution taking place? How are we to consider ourselves?

Peter has *much to say* on this subject. There's something to be gleaned from EVERY Chapter in 1 Peter on the subjects of trial, persecution and suffering!

### **Read 1 Peter 1:3-7**

4. Make a list of everything God has done for us and why from verses 3-5. It is very important for us to have this foundation!
  
5. According to verse 6, we can rejoice in everything on this list even though we might encounter what? How can it affect us?
  
6. Why are these things happening? What is their purpose?

**Day 3:** We will return to Peter. . . but first, the next verses in Romans.

**Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.** Romans 17b-18.

The NIV says in verse 17b: **Be careful to do right in the eyes of everyone.**

1. In the context of persecution and evil, what does this verse mean?
  
2. How should we live this out in the world according to 1 Peter 2:11-12. If we live this way what is the result?
  
3. How are we to view our life on earth according to these verses in 1 Peter 2?
  
4. What are we to attempt to do with everybody in Romans 12:18? Is this possible at all times? Why or why not?
  
5. What do we learn about this from the following verses?
  - a. Psalm 34:14
  - b. Matthew 5:9
  - c. Hebrews 12:14

### **Day 4: Jesus' Example: 1 Peter 2:19-24**

The context of these verses is submission to authorities—to the good, the bad and well, the harsh.

1. In verses 19-20, how are we to handle wrong actions towards us? What is the origination of these wrongful actions? (verse 19)



## Day 5: Final Verses in Romans 12

**Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

1. In our flesh what do we want to do when we are persecuted in verse 19?
2. To whom and what are we to entrust ourselves when we’re a victim of persecution and/or evil?
3. How does this response compare to Jesus’ response in 1 Peter 2:23?
4. What can we learn about God’s “justice” from the following verses?
  - a. Psalm 94:1-6, What is God doing and to whom?
  - b. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Who, What. How and When?
  - c. Why should we not glory in God’s vengeance towards our enemies? (What does His vengeance mean for them?)
5. How are we to treat our enemy according to Romans 12:20-21. Is any part of this evil or not a blessing to our enemy? Explain using *context* and research.

