



Christian Response when Persecuted

ROMANS 12: 14 – 21

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SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 12: 14 - 21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 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. ²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Bless Instead of Curse.

Vv. 14 – 16.

- ▶ Bless (εὐλογεῖτε) means to speak well of.
 - ▶ Speak well about and to, even pray for the persecutor.
- ▶ Rejoice and weep.
 - ▶ Rejoicing with those who rejoice may be harder due to envy.
 - ▶ Weeping with the suffering.
- ▶ Be of the same mind.
 - ▶ Not haughty in pride.
 - ▶ Relate to and associate with the lowly
 - ▶ Don't be wise in your own estimation.

Never Pay Back Evil.

Vv. 17 – 18.

- ▶ Christians are to never retaliate with evil.
 - ▶ Evil must always be overcome with good.
 - ▶ This can be extremely hard when abused.
- ▶ Respect and do what is right before all men.
 - ▶ What is right is always what God calls right.
- ▶ Be at peace with all men.
 - ▶ If possible indicates that all men may not allow such peace.
 - ▶ So far as it depends on you, means you are not the one that instigates a lack of peace.

Never Take Your Own Revenge.

Vv. 19 - 21

- ▶ Leave room for the wrath of God. V. 19.
 - ▶ Quote from Deut. 32: 35; Ps. 94: 1.
 - ▶ Only God is the just judge bringing just recompense.
- ▶ We are to show good in feeding our hungry enemy or giving drink to our thirsty enemy. V. 20.
 - ▶ Heap coals of fire probably refers to the possibility of bringing shame having received good from their bad.
- ▶ To take vengeance is to be overcome by evil. V. 21.
 - ▶ The only Christian way to deal with offense against him or her is to overcome evil with good.

Conclusion



- ▶ We will all suffer trials and tribulations from others at times, but there is a Christian response to them.
- ▶ Our response to persecution begins with a proper view of ourselves as saved sinners who love people.
- ▶ We live together having the same mind, loving each other and attempting to live at peace with all.
- ▶ We refuse to be the judge and executor of vengeance when harmed, but overcome evil with good.