

## 1. Intro:

- Paul still fleshing out **Romans 12:1-2**. He's describing what it looks like to be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind God will find acceptable for disciples of Jesus.
- Last week, Paul taught us to bless those who persecute us and to do all that we can do to be at peace with others.
- Today we will cover the final 3 verses in chapter 12 and see how else we can be convicted!

## 2. Text: Romans 12:19-21

### Romans 12:19

- Never take revenge.
  - Revenge: "The act or an instance of responding to an injury with an injury" or "an act or instance of retaliating in order to get even." -Merriam-Webster Dictionary.
- Leave revenge to the righteous anger of God.
  - **Revelation 20:12**: "I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books." NLT

### Romans 12:20

- Respond to your enemies (those acting in a way that is opposed to you) with undeserved kindness (grace).
  - Paul quoted **Proverbs 25:21-22**.
- A kind response is more likely to bring calm/peace into a relationship than a counterattack!
  - A gracious response will "heap burning coals of shame on their head". This is an expression (don't know the origin of it) meaning their conscience will sense shame or conviction as they realize the difference between their cruel act and your kind act.
  - **Proverbs 15:1** "A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare."

- This form of undeserved kindness is the grace God granted to us:
  - **Romans 5:8** - "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us *while* we were still sinners." NLT
  - **Romans 2:4** - "Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" NLT

### **Romans 12:21**

- Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing **good**.
  - Conquer evil by doing good... Paul is teaching us to have a **default attitude** of mercy and grace toward unbelievers who are treating us badly, just like God does.
  - **Romans 5:10**: "For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son." NLT
    - We were once God's enemies. What restored our friendship with Him? The **good** and gracious act of God's Son dying for us while we were *still* his enemies!

### **3. Application:**

- Romans 12 is packed with Godly characteristics that disciples of Jesus are to aim for. Review it often and ask God to transform your way of thinking to align with His.
- So, how do we change into the kind of disciples of Jesus that God wants us to be?
  - Stop thinking that you can't change or that God can't change you. He can indeed transform you!
  - Stop blaming others for your own actions and attitudes. You're not a victim. You are a Holy Spirit indwelt child of God who is more than a conqueror! (Rom 8:37)
  - Take inventory: humbly and honestly assess where you are and where you need to change as it relates to Godly character & loving others. Pray for God's help.
  - **Know** that you are dead to the power of sin, grow in **considering** that to be true, and then, by faith, **give yourself** to God in obedience to these Romans 12 truths! - **Romans 6:5-13**