

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 12:9-21**.
- B. One very difficult thing about preaching is that a preacher cannot preach the truth any better than it is already written. Commentaries are of little value when the NT says something plain and simple.
- C. Bill Crawford told me long ago,
 “The NT sure throws a lot of light on the NT commentaries.”
- D. This morning’s text is just that kind of passage. I can’t preach it any better than it is written.
- E. For simplification I submit the following three-point outline of Rom. 12:
 - 1. Treatment of others by our own conduct (9-13).
 - 2. Treatment of others in common matters (14-16).
 - 3. Treatment of others who sin against us (17-21).
- F. It would seem that this is Paul’s rendition (interpretation?) of the Sermon on the Mount.

I. TREATMENT OF OTHERS BY OUR OWN CONDUCT (Rom. 12:9-13).

- A. Remember not to hate the person, only the sin. Abhor and cling are strong words, demanding strong conduct (v9).
 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
- B. Never look out for your own interests when dealing with others. God will exalt, no pearls before swine (v10; see Mt. 7:6).
 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
- C. We do things well and often that we like to do, remember that serving others with diligence is serving God with diligence (v11).
 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;...
- D. We need to be happy, patient and addicted at the same time (v12).
 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
- E. Do good unto all, be one who enjoys sharing good things (v13).
 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

II. TREATMENT OF OTHERS IN COMMON MATTERS (Rom. 12:14-16).

- A. The correct response will always do the most good. We are not to persecute in return (v14; see 1Pet. 2:21-23).
 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.
- B. It is harder to rejoice than weep due to jealousy.
 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- C. Erase all barriers to communication (social, intellectual, age, race, etc.), be not proud or arrogant. We are all less than God, in all these areas (v16).
 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.

III. TREATMENT OF OTHERS WHO SIN AGAINST US (Rom. 12:17-21).

- A. The correct response will do the most good, even if it seems inappropriate to the situation. The standard of what is right is first determined by the Scriptures, then culture (v17).
- B. In applying this verse ask yourself the question, “What if everybody did this?” (v18).
 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- C. Remember that man’s revenge can in no way equal what God will do to those who sin against Him. Let God handle the punishment deserved (v19).
 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.

- D. This is a quote from Prov. 25. In the old culture, when a guest would leave for the night, the host would give him/her a few hot coals so that they could start a fire when they got home. To shower an enemy with hot coals is to show extreme favor and grace. Evil only brings on more evil unless it is conquered with good (v20).
[Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.](#)
- F. The entire book of Revelation deals with this reasoning showing that Satan and all his allies will be conquered.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Maybe a good conclusion would be in the first two verses of this chapter, 12:1-2.
- B. Of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these is love.
- C. May we practically use all that the apostle Paul has given us in this text.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.