

Overcoming evil with Good

One temptation for us all is to try to repay evil with evil, but that is not the teaching of God's Word. We need to mature to a place of not rewarding evil for evil, but with good. These passages of scripture point out the need to do that.

Romans 12:17, 19, 21 *Recompense to no man evil for evil-provide things honest in the sight of all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place to wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the LORD. 21 Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good*

- a) This verse is emphasizing restoration.
- b) Many times, when we read this, we take it to mean that God will repay evil to those that have done us evil. Why would God tell us NOT to recompense evil for evil (Romans 12: 17) yet He is doing the same?
- c) I believe this is rather saying that God will repay us what we have lost or has been taken or stolen from us.
 - i) I would prefer to be paid back than to have the other person punished and keep what belongs to me.
 - ii) The vengeance of God repays us His children good (Proverbs 13:21). It restores what the enemy has stolen from us.
 - Proverbs 13:21 *Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.*
- Notice it says Evil pursues sinners. This does not say God pursues sinners to repay them evil. It's not God that repays those who hurt us evil. Evil simply pursues the sinner.

- Notice that the unlike what many have believed and prayed for, God does not repay those that do us evil with evil, but rather repays us good. The repayment of the righteous from God is “good.” God is not the One repaying those who have wronged us with evil rather He is repays us (righteous) with good and to the wicked and the ungodly it is their very own evil that pushes them and repays them of the evil they have sowed.

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

- a) There is a positive and negative judgment of God.
 - i) The negative judgment of God has never been towards His own or those who love Him. The previous verses to this were about the negative judgment of God towards those who have rejected Him and renounced their faith.
 - ii) The vengeance of God repays us His children good. It restores what the enemy has stolen from us. This judgment is not to us but for us.

Proverbs 24:28-29 Be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause; and deceive not with thy lips. Say not, I will do so to him as he has done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

- a) Notice the word “without cause”. This is not saying we should never be witnesses against another person—it's saying we should not be without cause or reason. In other words, do not deceptively witness against another to lie against them. Do not make up accusations against another.
- b) The following verse gives the reason why this could happen. It's because someone is taking revenge for something that was done to them. We should not repay evil with evil but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:19-21). We should let the Lord repay us and vindicate us.
 - i) Do not plan nor say you will do to unto another just as they have done unto you. This is not consistent with the teaching of Jesus. We need to let God do what He does best in defending us and coming to our rescue.

Proverbs 14:19 The evil bow before the good and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

- a) It's the evil to bow before the good not the good to bow before the evil. If it doesn't happen in this life, it will in the life to come. Ultimately, the evil or the wicked will bow

before the gates of the righteous. Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Proverbs 22:20 Say not thou, I will recompense evil, but wait on the LORD and He shall save thee.

- a) We need to not repay evil for evil but rather wait upon the Lord. Our vengeance is from the Lord.

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