

Romans 12 - Christian Surrender and Service

SUMMARY

- Chapter 12 primarily deals with a believer's walk of daily surrender, service, dedication, and purity.
 - It deals with the principles of practical consecration and Christian character.
 - **THEME:** Sacrificial service & sanctification through growth in holiness and purity.
- v. 1 God's earnest plea for **all believers'** bodies. (brethren, ye => plural)
- Based on the mercy God has shown the Gentiles after the Jews unbelief (Rom. 11:20, 30), God desires the Gentile Christians to respond in a certain way so as to draw the Jews to Jesus Christ as their Messiah. (Rom. 11:30-32)
 - **FIRST**, salvation must be received by grace through faith as a free gift, **then afterwards** believers may present their bodies a living sacrifice (discipleship, service, and good works). - Eph. 2:8-10
 - Clarify the Bible difference between a "**believer**" (one who is saved) and a "**Christian**" (one who is saved AND ALSO a disciple). - Acts 11:26
 - **Side Note:** Beware of the **leaven** (false doctrine) of "Lordship salvation", e.g. salvation invitations that say: 1) come and ask Jesus into your heart, 2) come give your life to Christ, 3) come and surrender your life to Christ, 4) come and make Jesus the Lord of your life, 5) come and give your heart to Christ, 6) come and make your commitment to Christ, or 7) come and get right with God (which can have as many interpretations as there are people in attendance). These are all things believers should do **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** getting saved! - Prov. 23:26
 - **The result is mass confusion! 1 Cor. 14:33 - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. CONTRAST with correct** salvation invitations: 1) Will you simply come as a sinner and by faith alone freely receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?, 2) Would you agree with God that you are a sinner and be willing to come and receive the free gift of everlasting life by placing your faith in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ?, or 3) Has the Holy Spirit convicted you of your sinful condition and need for Jesus Christ? If so, will you come and trust Jesus Christ by faith and what He did at the cross, (that is His substitutionary and blood atonement, i.e. His D/B/R for your salvation?)
 - Salvation is about receiving the free pardon of sin and eternal life, it is receiving the free righteousness of Jesus Christ, and staying out of Hell! - Rom. 10:3-4
 - Nearly all people are **incurably self-righteous**, (including most Baptist preachers), who believe and preach that we must **DO SOMETHING** for salvation beyond simply God and trusting the D/B/R of Jesus Christ by faith alone.
 - Salvation is so simple: "If you want to go to Heaven, trust Jesus Christ alone! If you want to go to Hell, trust anything else!"
 - God does **not** use "thou shalt" in this verse. By using the word "**beseech**" (ask, appeal, plead, implore), notice that God is acknowledging a believer's **free will**. - Eph. 4:1-3

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- “therefore” refers back to Rom. 11:36 - Because of Jesus Christ’s preeminence in all things and His worthiness to receive all glory, all believers **should willingly, gladly, and whole-heartedly** present their bodies every day to God as a living sacrifice for Him to control and do with us as He sees fit.
- Failure to do so means we **ARE NOT** in the will of God. Believers **cannot** know the will of God until **after** we surrender our bodies as a living sacrifice.
- Notice God wants all members **our body** in His control, **not our life**.
- God wants every believer to be a “**living sacrifice**”. - Rom. 6:11-13 (**members** refers to parts of our bodies).
- It is a sacrifice to force our fleshly bodies to do what God calls us to do because our flesh **never** wants to cooperate in doing anything God is asking us to do.
- The sacrifices of our bodies are to be holy (set apart for God) and acceptable unto God.
- These sacrifices are made acceptable by our relationship to Christ. - 1 Pet. 2:5
- The good works done by a Christian with the **right motive and right attitude** are counted as acceptable unto God. - Examples of sacrifices which are acceptable unto God? Rom. 14:17-18; Rom. 15:16; Eph. 5:8-10; Phil. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; 5:4; 1 Pet. 2:20
- “requite” (1 Tim. 5:4 word study): FM: Gen. 50:15 “repay or to exact payment”; Jer. 51:56; 2 Chron. 6:23 “recompense”; 2 Sam. 2:5-6; 1 Tim. 5:4 “repay in kind”
- Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices is our **reasonable service**. In light of what the Lord has already done for us, **anything** God asks of us is reasonable, logical, and makes perfect sense.

v. 2 - Be **not conformed** to the world; but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind.

- Being **transformed** by renewing your mind is a **dramatic change** in our thinking that takes place **after salvation** as the born-again believer surrenders his/her will to God every day. - 1 Cor. 2:16; 2 Cor. 10:5-6; 1 Pet. 4:1-2
- “**conformed**” is used only one other time in the Bible - Rom. 8:29 - The 2 verses are opposites and show **both sides** of being conformed. Believers get to choose.
- “**transformed**” is used only two other times in the Bible. - 2 Cor. 11:14-15 - Again we see **both sides** of being transformed. If we as believers fail to transform our minds, then the old nature prevails and we live our Christian lives in the flesh as something we **ARE NOT**, just like the Satan transforms himself into something he **IS NOT** “an angel of light”.
- “**renewing of your mind**” - This has to do with a continual cleansing of the heart. - Ps. 19:14, 51:10 It is needed to regain the daily strength believers need to walk in the Spirit. - Isa. 40:31; Gal. 5:16-18
It is a continual turning to the Lord & a new start in our spiritual walk. - Lam. 5:21
- Believers are **not** to submit to, **not** to live in harmony with, **not** agree with, and **not** live in accordance with the world’s ways. By definition, that means we are

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being commanded to be **different than** the world and stick out as a peculiar people and be zealous in our service for the Lord. - Titus 2:11-15

- This v. 2 tells us precisely why you cannot tell the difference between many believers and the lost world, because many believers today live in carnality and worldliness.
- Christians have been given the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16b), but if you don't renew your mind, you will walk as a carnal Christian - Rom. 8:5-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-4
- Many believers today live carnally; they love the fleshly and material things of this world, i.e. pleasure, money, status, sports, more than they love God. Many believers today lack Bible knowledge and are not dedicated or sold out to God and serving Him in and through the church. - 2 Tim. 3:1-7
- Non-conformance to the world will bring about persecution and suffering. - Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12, 3:12
- If you confront people about sin and going to Hell, many will hate you.- Prov. 9:8a 1 John 3:13 - **Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.** Believers who conform to the world are hypocrites and not good witnesses. When nobody can see any difference in the Christian, no persecution comes.
- The modern mega-church movement is based on conformity to the world system, e.g. they do surveys to make sure their programs are "seeker-sensitive", they incorporate the world's music, and then they add the world's prosperity or social gospel, the world's entertainment, and the world's fleshly pleasures.
- The church's ministry of reconciliation through proclaiming the true Gospel of Jesus Christ here and around the world has largely ceased. 2 Cor. 5:18-20
- Modernistic churches rarely confront a sinner with his sin and present the clear Gospel of the Grace of God through Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation.
- Today, mainstream Christianity has incorporated all of the Devil's tactics: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...and they think they are completely in Gods' will in doing so.
- Believers are "in Christ" **right now** and should not conform to, love, or befriend the world. - 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; 2 Cor. 6:14-18 (separation)
- You cannot be transformed by the renewing of your mind **if** you are conformed to the world.
- Being transformed and renewed in your mind is something you do **continually**. - 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 4:21-24
- If your mind is **not** transformed, you can **never know** the perfect will of God.
- The only place to change the thinking in our minds is through the scriptures. The more scripture you know, the more your mind will think like Jesus Christ.

The Three Wills of God

1. **Good Will** - Yields fruit of thirtyfold. - Matt. 13:8, 23 Also can relate to bearing "fruit". - John 15:2

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2. **Acceptable Will** - Yields fruit of sixtyfold. - Matt. 13:8, 23 This can also relate to bearing "more fruit". - John 15:2
3. **Perfect Will** - Yields fruit of hundredfold. - Gen. 26:12-14; Matt. 13:8, 23; Matt. 19:29; Mark 10:28-31; Luke 8:8 Also can relate to bearing "much fruit". - John 15:5-8 Notice that a "**full reward**" will be received at the Judgment Seat of Christ, but the reward can also be lost. - 2 John 1:8

- Be careful about telling other Christians what you think God's will is for their life; that is between them and God, (even though Prov. 11:14b; 24:6b both state "in multitude of counsellors there is safety.").
- Doing God's will is **God's prerequisite** to God showing us more of His will. - John 7:17; Ps. 36:9; Luke 16:10-12

v. 3 - How should we see ourselves as believers?

- This verse is the "**root cause**" of many sins, e.g. being offended, hurt feelings, family strife, being "unfairly" treated, not getting what we think we "deserve", getting upset with God, unanswered prayer, depression, critical spirit, dwelling on others' sins and not our own, being content as a carnal believer, lack of burden for lost souls, failure to witness, lack of prayer & Bible study.
- Why are we not more faithful to God and in serving God? - Prov. 20:6, 28:20
- **First and foremost**, we must realize that we are **not deserving** of God's gift of grace. If we can't see this, it guarantees we will think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. We ought to spend more time meditating on what we **really deserve** → Death-Rom. 6:23, Judgment-Heb. 9:27, and Hell-Rev. 20:15
- The world says we must first look out for ourselves, have positive self-image, fully develop our self-esteem, think of ourselves as very valuable to God, etc., etc. This is totally WRONG, WRONG, AND WRONG! - Rom. 7:18-25
- From v. 2, if a believer conforms to the world ways, he will ALWAYS think of himself more highly than he ought to think. → leading to **Selfish Pride!** - Ps. 10:4; Prov. 3:7, 11:2; 13:10, 29:23; Isa. 5:21; Rom. 12:16c
- It is **not** a sin to receive sincere praise from other people, but it's sinful to do whatever you do with the motive of being praised by man. - Prov. 27:2; Eph. 6:5-9
- It is sinful to give man praise & glory which rightfully belongs to God. - Isa. 42:8
- Example of Herod: Acts 12:18-23 → Notice the sequence of events of Herod's death: 1) smote (not slew), 2) worms, 3) death. (Purpose of God → A Deterrent?)
- Serving God should be solely for the purpose of glorifying God. - Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16; Col. 3:22-23; 1 Cor. 1:31
- To "**think soberly**" is to have **humility of mind**, it is the opposite of thinking highly of yourself. - Acts 20:19; Col. 3:12-13; James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:5-6 The only other use of "soberly" in the Bible tells us to "**live soberly**" - Titus 2:12

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- God deals us “**the measure of faith**” as He sees fit for the purpose of bringing glory to Himself. God gives believers the measure needed to succeed in our calling from God.

vv. 4-5 - One body but many members. - 1 Cor. 12:12-14, 20; Eph. 4:4-6 - “one”→7X

- Being saved in the Church Age of Grace and put into the Body of Christ has nothing to do with water baptism. - Rom. 6:3-4; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:10-12; Gal. 3:27
- Jesus Christ’s crucifixion at the Cross of Calvary is the foundation upon which the Body of Christ is built. - Eph. 2:11-16
- New dispensation of grace whose foundation is Christ! - Eph. 3:1-12; Col. 1:23-29
- Hidden until revealed to Paul - Rom. 16:25; Gal. 1:11-12
- Jesus Christ is the head of the Body of Christ. - Col. 1:13-18
- In the Bible there is more than one church. - “**little flock**” - Luke 12:32, “**a nation**” - Matt. 21:42-44; “**church in the wilderness**” - Acts 7:30-38

BODY OF CHRIST

LOCAL CHURCH

	BODY OF CHRIST	LOCAL CHURCH
1	ONE BODY , not many bodies - Eph. 4:4-6	MANY individual local assemblies
2	Every member has equal standing, with Jesus Christ as the Head of the Body. - Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:13-18	Many emphasize organizational hierarchies (Nicolaitism - Rev. 2:6,15) and operate as secular businesses
3	100% Saved, 0% Lost Nah. 1:7, 2 Tim. 2:19	Not everybody is necessarily saved
4	Only one body of all believers saved during ~2000 year Church Age	Many different assemblies of many denominations
5	Only requirement for entering the Body of Christ is faith alone in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ - 1 Cor. 15:3-4 (Gospel of the Grace of God)	Many have membership requirements e.g. water baptism, attendance requirements, completion of a formal New Members Class, agreement to Denominational Creed, Church Covenant, Constitution, By-Laws, etc.
6	Believers enter the one Body of Christ by being baptized (not water baptism) by the Holy Spirit. - 1 Cor. 12:13	For many, membership is by majority vote of the existing members
7	No membership roll kept by men	Many maintain formal membership rolls, including “active/inactive” status
8	No voting possible	Many use membership rolls to control voting privileges
9	No “Majority Rule” governance	Many use only “Majority Rule” for most church decisions
10	No denominational traditions of men, only use the scriptures	Many follow denominational traditions of men

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vv. 6-8 - **Seven** spiritual gifts *for service* (these are *not* “sign gifts” of 1 Cor. 12:4-11)

- Each member has different gifts, as decided and determined by the Holy Spirit.
- v. 6 - The gift of **prophecy** (i.e. to tell beforehand what is going to happen in the future **OR** proclaiming the gospel) **must be consistent** with the scriptures.
- To “**prophesy according to the proportion of faith**” is when a believer is fully persuaded based on what the Holy Spirit clearly reveals from the scriptures. It would also include praying for understanding and making sure the prophecy is “rightly divided” and does not contradict any scriptures.
- v. 7 - The gift of **ministry** is to be based on **servicing**, such as a waiter who waits on tables, giving careful attention to his service (wait does not mean “to tarry”, “to sit back and rest”, or to stop all activity). It is keeping busy in the service that God has called and equipped you to do. A good servant is unselfish and knows what pleases God and delights in accomplishing it. The gift of **teaching** includes putting in the time and effort necessary to be properly prepared to teach.
- v. 8 - The gift of **exhortation** is a type or style of preaching that the Holy Ghost uses to stir up and motivate people to respond to the truth that is preached and to make **real changes** in their lives. The gift of **giving** is to be done “**with simplicity**” i.e. don’t complicate it, don’t do it for selfish reasons; do it with singleness of mind as it being the right thing to do, do it with the right spirit, and do it with cheerfulness. - Deut. 16:17; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:12, 9:6-8 The gift of **ruling** (i.e. a position of authority) should be with done “**with diligence**” (i.e. faithful, thorough, steady, constant effort, attention and care to every detail, not negligent, slothful or lazy) in the right spirit and **not** to benefit self (v. 3). Church leaders are to be about God’s work, feeding the flock, setting a godly example, being an ensample, and helping others grow in a spirit of humility. - 1 Pet. 5:1-5 The gift of **showing mercy** is to have a forgiving spirit and helping others with a good, willing, and cheerful attitude. Believers are to be genuinely kind and gracious to others, especially when they least “deserve it”. - Zech. 7:8-12 (it affected their prayer life - Zech. 7:13); Eph. 4:32

vv. 9-21 - How to live as a Christian (Doctrinal Context: To provoke the Jews to jealousy. - Rom. 11:11)

v. 9 - Christian love and sticking to that which is good.

- For a believer’s love to be “without dissimulation” is to be **without**: 1) partiality and 2) hypocrisy (fake, pretending, deception). Believers are commanded to first love the Lord thy God (about 16 times in the KJB) and then to love our neighbor as ourselves (about 8 times in the KJB). We should also have impartial love to our brothers and sisters in Christ - 1 Pet. 2:17 → Love the brotherhood.
- Believers must also love our enemies. - Matt. 5:44; (More in Rom. 12:14, 20)
- Believers are to “abhor” evil and “cleave to that which is good”. Biblically, these two terms must then be **opposites** when discussing evil and good. Abhor is to

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despise, detest, reject, loath, hate, get rid of, and cast away evil. - Psalm 97:10; Prov. 8:13 To cleave is to join with, to cling to, and permanently stick to that which is good. First mention (FM) of “**cleave**” in KJB is Gen 2:24 - Leave and cleave as in a marriage! “C” is to cleave as “P” is to preach (reach, each).

- v. 10 - Be kind with brotherly love. - Eph. 4:32; John 13:34-35; 15:12; 15:17; 1 Pet. 1:22
- “affection” first mention shows the believer’s first affection is to be God and the house of God. - 1 Chron. 28:20- 29:3 (“affection” in v. 10 relates to relationships with the brethren.)
 - How is this to be accomplished? Honoring the brethren and giving them preference **above** yourself. - Gen. 13:5-13 (Abraham was the elder and the honor really belonged to him.)
 - We need to esteem others better than ourselves and let others have the privilege and let them have the advantage. - 1 Cor. 10:24, 33; Rom. 15:1-3; Phil. 2:3
 - “**preferring one another**” is simply to be unselfish, by putting the needs of others ahead of ourselves.
- v. 11 - Three more characteristics of Christian conduct.
- “**not slothful**”. Used only 2 other times in the KJB - Judges 18:9; Heb. 6:12 - It is to be lazy, complacent, apathetic, lethargic, sluggish, unwilling to exert yourself, unwilling to do your very best.
 - “**fervent in spirit**” → opposite of slothful; it is to be “on fire” for Jesus, zealous, intense, passionate, energetic, sincere, dedicated, earnest; given to excellence. It is being **proactive** rather than **reactive**; it is anticipating what needs to be done rather than waiting to be told what to do. It is being utterly consumed with serving God. The word “**fervent**” is used 6 other times in the KJB - Acts 18:24-25; 2 Cor. 7:5-7; James 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:8; 2 Pet. 3:10, 12
 - Focus and result of everything a believer does: “**serving the Lord**” - Col. 3:22-25
- v. 12 - Believers should have a positive outlook, regardless of circumstances.
- The believer’s “**hope**” is a confident assurance and assured expectation, **not** worldly wishful thinking. - Acts 17:30-31; Titus 2:13; 3:7
 - “**patience**” comes from a hope that is 1) absolutely sure and 2) provides certain deliverance from troubles and problems that arise. - Rom. 5:1-5; 8:25; 15:4-5; 2 Cor. 6:1-10; James 1:1-4
 - “**continuing instant in prayer**” - Be ready to pray instantly, continually, and any given time.- Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6:4; Rom. 8:26; Eph. 6:18
- v. 13 - Believers are to help out the brethren and be hospitable. - Gal. 6:9-10
- Believers are to assist other believers with their genuine needs. - 1 Tim. 6:18 (This is not a command for the socialistic redistribution of wealth.- Rom. 15:25-26)

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- According to the Bible, people have a God-given right to starve if they are capable of working and will not work. - 2 Thess. 3:10
 - While we should help the truly poor and needy who are working and doing what they are supposed to do, it is **neither** the church's job nor the government's job to interfere with God's plan. We need to make sure our "helpfulness" is not enabling laziness or against the will of God. - 1 Tim. 5:3-10
 - We are to be generous and hospitable (friendly and willing to care for visitors and guests); "hospitality" is used 3 other times in the KJB. - 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:9
 - Hospitality is commanded here and may have unexpected benefits. - Heb. 13:1-2
- v. 14 - Believers are commanded to bless those who persecute us. - Matt. 5:44 (the same thing is found in Luke 6:28)
- Believers are not supposed to curse those who persecute us. If we violate this, we cannot get the victory we seek over these enemies. - v. 20; Prov. 25:21-22
 - It's not an easy thing to do, we must walk in the Spirit to do it. Three Examples: 1) Paul's failure - Acts 23:1-5 2) Christ success - Luke 23:33-34 3) Stephen's success - Acts 7:54-60
 - William Tyndale was burned at the stake for publishing and distributing the New Testament in English back in the 1500's, he prayed, "**Lord, open the king of England's eyes.**" As a result, we have the AV1611 King James Bible which is about 80% Tyndale's work in the New Testament.
- v. 15 - Believers are to identify with and help others. - James 1:27 (Key: "**in their affliction**")
- This goes for missionaries and persecuted Christians worldwide.
 - It is essential that we get our eyes off of ourselves and keep them on others, seeking to understand what they are going through, pray for them, and help them however we can with the resources God has entrusted us with. - Heb. 13:3
 - Providing comfort for the sorrowful helps them to feel they are not alone. Many times we should **not** open our mouths and start quoting a bunch of verses, but rather just be there and cry with them. - 1 Cor. 12:26
 - Believers should **not be covetous** or **envious** but genuinely joyful when something good happens to a person, e.g. when they get a raise, promotion, a better job, a new car, get married, get saved, or some other spiritual blessing such as a new ministry or being used by God to win souls.
 - The believer's ultimate goal is to win the lost to Jesus Christ and we can accomplish this much better when we identify with the genuine needs of those around us. - 1 Cor. 9:19-22

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v. 16 - Believers are not to be “cliquish”. - James 2:2-9

- A believer is not to focus his life on things esteemed highly by this world “**high things**”, but we are to humble ourselves before God and before men.
- Believers are to be of “one mind”. - Rom. 15:6; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 1:27, 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:8
- Believers are to “condescend to (come down and identify with) men of low estate”. - Ps. 136:23
- Remember, but for the grace of God, there go I! - Eph. 2:1-2; Col 2:13
- To focus on “high things” is satanic. - Job 41:34
- Believers are not to show partiality towards people that can benefit us; we are to identify with men of low estate. - KJB contrasts “**the lowly**” with “**the proud**” - Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34; 11:2; 16:18-19, 18:12
- Believers are commanded here to “**Be not wise in your own conceits.**”
- This means we should never to think we “know it all”. - Rom. 11:20, 25; Prov. 3:7; Prov. 26:12, 28:11; Isa. 5:21

vv. 17-21 - How believers are supposed to respond when somebody does us wrong. This gives believers the opportunity to show we are very different than the world.

v. 17 - Believers are not to repay evil with evil and be honest in our dealings. - Luke 6:27-36

- Believers are not to respond in kind; i.e. two wrongs never made a right! - Ps. 34:13-14; Prov. 24:29, 20:22
- Believers are to be honest and above reproach. - 2 Cor. 8:21; 13:7; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 2:12-15
- Believers need to pay our bills on time, obey the laws of the land (that don’t contradict God’s laws - Acts 5:29), be upstanding citizens, **do more than** is required or expected, and have a good testimony. Believers ought to surprise others by going the second mile whenever there is opportunity (but you cannot be on the second mile until **AFTER** you finish the first mile!). - Matt. 5:38-48

v. 18 - Believers, who have the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, are commanded here to live peaceably with all men. This is qualified by 2 conditions: 1) if it is possible and 2) as much as we are able (while still doing the right thing).

- Both parties must cooperate and **want peace** before there can be peace.
- Believers must maintain a **good and right** attitude. - Eph. 4:32
- As much as we would like to, we cannot control the attitude and actions of others.
- How? Trust, depend, and rely on God. Seek and yield to God’s will. Faithfully pray for the situation and for the other people involved. Ask God for a filling of the Holy Spirit in dealing with the situation. God will see you through it and give you the victory. - 1 Cor. 10:13

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- Believers must learn to turn situations completely over to God and be willing to fully accept the outcome God provides. **KEY: FIRST, yield to God's will and His desired outcome, even if/when it doesn't match your desired outcome!**
- v. 19 - Believers are **not** to avenge ourselves. - Lev. 19:18; 1 Sam. 24:12; Ps. 94:1; Heb. 10:30, 1 Thess. 4:6; Prov. 20:22, 24:29
- This verse is a quote of Deut. 32:35 The context of Deut. 32 is apostate Jews yoking up with the Roman Catholic false religious system during the Tribulation. (read Deut. 32:31-44) - cf. Ps. 62:6-7
 - God's vengeance on Gentile nations that persecute the Jews. - Deut. 32:41-43
 - Practically, notice "**due time**" in Deut. 32:35; we must be patient and allow God to work in the situation. - Luke 18:1-8
 - God never delegated vengeance to anyone, except for penalties where the civil authorities are acting as ministers of God on moral issues. - Rom. 13:1-6
 - We must not confuse "vengeance" with the responsibility we have been given to **defend our families**. - Gen. 14:12-16; Ex. 22:2-3; Num. 32:20-23; Luke 11:21-22, Luke 22:36; 2 Sam. 1:17-18, 23:12; 2 Kings 19:32-35; Neh. 4:16-18; Esther 8:11-13, Esther 9:5-16; Ps. 82:3-4, 144:1; Matt. 12:29; 1 Tim. 5:8
 - Avenge (defined) - To inflict or execute the deserved or just **condemnation, judgment, and punishment** for sins or wrongs that have been committed. **This is solely God's business!** When people get involved in vengeance, it becomes an act of retaliation that is committed with personal malice and bitter resentment.
 - It is **NOT** the believer's responsibility to settle God's accounts.
 - "**give place to wrath**" - let God be God; let God repay as He sees fit. - Ex. 15:1-3; 1 Sam. 16:18; Ps. 24:8, 144:1; Jer. 21:5-7
 - God's vengeance in destroying His enemies makes Him happy. - Psalm 137:7-9; Deut. 28:63
 - Contrast God's vengeance **vs.** God's desire for man's salvation.-Ezek. 18:32; Ezek. 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9
- v. 20 - How believers are to treat our enemies. - Prov. 25:21-22
- In Prov. 25:22b that a **reward** is involved when the believer obeys this verse.
 - "heap coals of fire on his head". In Psalm 140, the Holy Spirit gives an account of God dealing with His enemies, wherein the antichrist will head up a group of nations that will attack Israel during the Tribulation (vv. 1, 4, 5, 8) and in vv. 9-10, we find the burning coals represent **Hell**. - "**the pit**" - Num. 16:33; Isa. 14:15
 - **THE RESULTS WILL BE:** Jer. 30:11, 16; 46:28; Isa. 41:10-13

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Application For Believers Today

- When a believer does good to his lost enemies, God uses this to allow the lost person another opportunity to repent of his failure to trust Christ (Rom. 2:4); if he rejects Jesus Christ, his damnation becomes that much more severe. “**greater damnation**” is used 3 times in the KJB - (Matt. 23:14; Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47). “**many stripes**” - Luke 12:41-48 “**more tolerable**” is used 6X in KJB. - Matt. 10:15; Matt. 11:20-24; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12-14
 - When a believer does good to an enemy who is a believer, he is rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If he does evil to his enemies, his work is burned up and he suffers loss of reward. - 1 Cor. 3:13-15
- v. 21 - We are in warfare as believers and we are not to be overcome with evil.
- The solution is to overcome evil with good. - Psalm 38:19-22; Prov. 17:13
 - This victory is available to us as individual believers. - Matt. 5:43-48
 - This is a great way for believers to show they are truly different from the world.