

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



Monday

Study: Romans 12:14-15, Matthew 5:11-12, I Peter 2:18-26

Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-26

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Romans 12:14-15

What are you supposed to do to people who persecute you (vs 14)?

****Though you may think this is hard, most of the time in our society today, any persecution you face is often minimal. Paul was writing this to people who could be thrown in prison or even killed by their persecutors. If the early believers could bless those who may kill them, certainly, you have the power through the Holy Spirit to bless those who may ridicule you.*

What does it mean to bless those who persecute you (vs 14)?

Why do you think it is much easier to curse those who hurt you?

Think of the last time someone did something to hurt you. How did you respond? Why did you respond that way?

****This could extend to many areas of life, not just hurting you for your Christian faith, but taking advantage of you in any way. It could be something as simple as another driver cutting you off, a teacher not being fair with his or her grading, or someone taking advantage of your giving spirit.*

What do you think you can do to help you keep this commandment?

What are you told to do in verse 15?

What do you think this means?

Why is this hard to do at times?

How can you make this a practice in your life?

Matthew 5:11-12

What is to be your attitude when others revile you (vs 11)?

How have you had this happen to you in your life? How did you respond?

What should be your response (vs 12)? Why?

What is the right perspective to have on persecution according to verse 12?

I Peter 2:18-26

How are you told to treat those who have authority over you (vs 18)?

****The slave/master relationship was similar to the employer/employee relationship of today, though it wasn't as easy for them to quit like it is today.*

What do you think verse 19 means?

What is God pleased with (vs 20)?

What have you been called to as a follower of Christ (vs 21)?

How did Christ set the example (vs 21-23)?

What is the key to enduring that was mentioned at the end of verse 23?

What do you need to remember when facing persecution (vs 24-26)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Tuesday

Study: Romans 12:16, Philippians 2:1-11, James 2:1-13

Reading: Luke 22:24-30, Mark 2:13-17

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Romans 12:16

How are you to live with those around you (vs 16a)?

What does it mean to live in “harmony”?

****The Greek word means to live with the same mind and to think alike. This does not mean that you have to be the same or think just like someone else. As we have seen already in Romans 12, we are all created uniquely different by God for a reason. The musical picture that harmony presents helps us understand what God desires. Though we are all different and unique, when we choose to work together for the same cause with the same purpose, choosing to have the mind of Christ, we can make beautiful music together as we do live together.*

What is the number one thing that will keep you from living in harmony with all men (vs 16b)?

Who do you think “the lowly” is referring to (vs 16b)?

****The Greek word means “humble.” The verse gives the idea of the importance of associating with the common, ordinary person. It is easy to want to be friends with those who have obtained a certain status in life, but as believers, we are to understand that we need to care for all men regardless of their social or economic status.*

Philippians 2:1-11

How would Paul’s joy be complete (vs 1-2)?

What should not be your motive for the actions you do or don’t do (vs 3)?

How are you supposed to view others (vs 3)?

Why is this hard to do?

What do you think it practically looks like to live out verse 4?

How should you think about yourself and others (vs 5)?

What type of life did Jesus live (vs 7)?

What did this require that He do (vs 6)?

****If anyone had a right to live full of pride, it was Jesus. Though He was God, He chose to give up certain privileges as God to live among men.*

What two main attitudes marked the life of Jesus (vs 8)?

What did God do for Jesus when He humbled himself (vs 9-11)?

James 2:1-13

What are we not supposed to show (vs 1)?

What do verses 2-7 reveal about your natural sin nature?

How should you live (vs 8)?

What are you doing if you show partiality (vs 9)?

What are areas of your life where you could be tempted to show partiality?

How do verses 9-13 reveal how serious the sin of pride and partiality are?

How are you supposed to live (vs 12)?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Wednesday

Study: Romans 12:17-18, Matthew 5:43-47, James 3:13-18

Reading: Proverbs 16:7, Genesis 21:22-34

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Romans 12:17-18

What should you not do (vs 17a)?

Why is this hard to follow?

What is the honorable thing to do when someone does evil to you (vs 17b)?

Why do you think it mentions the importance of being honorable in the sight of all men (vs 17b)?

****By choosing to respond the way Christ responded, you are displaying the evidence of the new life that is inside of you. It is one thing to talk about your faith, but it is very important that you live out your faith, especially when you are put to the test.*

What should you strive to do with all men (vs 18)?

Why do you think it says “as much as possible” (vs 18)?

****This verse along with the context it is in describes how important it is to do your part in living peaceable with all men. But, just as Jesus wasn't able to be at peace with all men, there are some men who will not want to get along with you. This is not an excuse for you not to get along with others, but a realization that as you live how God wants you to live there will be some people who will not be happy with your choices. You need to do all that you can to continue to live at peace with these people.*

Matthew 5:43-47

What was Jesus referring to in verse 43?

****Jesus was making reference to the Old Testament law and some of the*

Jewish teaching. The law stated the importance of loving your neighbor, but didn't state that they needed to hate their enemy. As Jews they were not to let the Gentiles influence them, but they were to treat strangers with love and respect. The prevailing Jewish thought during the time of Jesus was for the need for the Jews to hate those who were against them.

What did Jesus say his followers should do (vs 44)?

What do these choices reveal about who you are (vs 45)?

What does verse 46-47 reveal about loving those who love you?

Why is it so hard to love your enemy or those who don't agree with you?

James 3:13-18

How does verse 13 reveal that the Christian life is more than just words?

What actions in the life of a person reveal they are not being controlled by the Holy Spirit (vs 14-16)?

How can these things show up in your life?

How can you determine if your actions are from the spirit of God or the spirit of the world (vs 17)?

What is one of the tell-tale signs that a person is acting and responding with the love of God in their hearts (vs 18)?

What can you do to help ensure you are being controlled by the Spirit rather than controlled by your flesh?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Thursday

Study: Romans 12:19, Matthew 6:14-15, Ephesians 4:26-32

Reading: Deuteronomy 32:34-38, Psalm 94:1-7

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Romans 12:19

What are you told never to do (vs 19)?

What reassurance are you given when you choose to follow this instruction?

What are reasons you would want to take vengeance out on others?

What does God declare about vengeance (vs 19b)?

How is this command at times a difficult one to follow?

Why do you think it is so important to obey this command?

****Note the emphasis of this context is more than not getting back at someone. It is the idea of completely letting it go and letting God take care of it. This has to do not only with your actions, but with your thoughts. You can't simply choose not to act and then pray that God would "get" a certain person back for what he or she did to you. Instead, you need to follow the example of Jesus on the cross where He declared, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." We are told that God will take care of it so that we can totally turn each situation over to Him.*

Matthew 6:14-15

What do you need to do when others wrong you (vs 14)?

What are we told will happen if we fail to forgive others (vs 15)?

****These verses could lead to great questions, but in simple terms the emphasis is on the importance of forgiveness. When you think about how much God has chosen to forgive you, you have no excuse not to forgive*

others when they hurt you.

Ephesians 4:26-32

What do verses 26-27 say about anger?

****It is a natural human emotion to become angry. What you do with the anger is your choice. If you stew on it and let it grow, it will cause problems. The idea of not letting the “sun go down on your wrath” reveals that you need to let go of your anger in a short period of time rather than holding on to it. If you choose to hang on to your anger, it gives a chance for the devil to start to warp your heart and mind.*

What should not come out of your mouth (vs 29)?

What should come out of your mouth (vs 29)?

What do you think verse 30 means?

****There are numerous ways that you can grieve the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit convicts you, you need to act by repenting from that sin. By choosing to hold onto your anger and putting others down with your words, you are grieving the Spirit.*

What are things that you need to choose to remove from your life (vs 31)?
Give a brief definition of each.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

How are you supposed to treat others?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Friday

Study: Romans 12:20-21, Luke 6:27-36

Reading: Proverbs 25:21-22, I Corinthians 13:1-8, Genesis 50:15-20

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Romans 12:20-21

Why does verse 20 start with “to the contrary?” (vs 20 ESV)

What should you do for your enemies (vs 20)?

What does the end of verse 20 mean?

This may refer to an ancient Egyptian custom in which a person who wanted to show public contrition carried a pan of burning coals on his head. The coals represented the burning pain of his shame and guilt. When believers lovingly help their enemies, it should bring shame to such people for their hate and animosity - From the MacArthur Study Bible

Why is it hard to do good to your enemies?

What will happen to you if you hold onto anger and bitterness (vs 21a)?

Why will it be best for you if you “overcome evil with good” (vs 21b)?

Why is this so hard to do?

How can you practically put these verses into practice in your daily life?

Luke 6:27-36

What are you supposed to do for your enemies (vs 27-28)?

Why is this very difficult to do?

****This is something that does not come in your own power or strength. The only way you can do this is through the power and help of the Holy*

Spirit who is living inside of you.

What does verse 29 mean?

****This is not teaching that you should let people walk all over you or not protect yourself, but does teach that you shouldn't strike people back when they do things to hurt you. For the sake of the Gospel, you should be willing to take without seeking to get that person back.*

What does verse 30 teach?

What principle should you let guide your life (vs 31)?

Why is it hard to look at things from this perspective?

What do verses 32-34 tell you about true love?

What does verses 32-34 reveal about the supernatural love that is inside of you as a believer?

What are you told to do (vs 35)?

What are you told about your reward (vs 35)?

How will this love reveal that you are a child of God?

Why is it so hard to live with this type of love?

What is your source of true love and mercy (vs 36)?

****When you have difficulty loving others and being merciful to others, you need to take time to reflect and meditate on God's love and mercy. When you truly realize how much love and mercy He has given to you, you will see your need to give that to others.*

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

“A Life of Godliness”

Study: Romans 12:14-21

Reading: Matthew 5:38-47, I Samuel 24:1-22

Memory: Matthew 5:24

Over the year, I have run across many people who claim to be believers, yet they live miserable lives. I have found in many of these cases that they have some type of anger inside of them towards another person or group of people. Instead of dealing with the situation, they become upset and frustrated. Those feelings often turn into bitterness which causes a person to live a life of misery which they chose to live in each day.

Today, we are going to be reminded how God gives us the ability to handle situations in a godly manner. God wants us to live lives full of joy by letting go of our anger and bitterness.

What Does the Bible Say?

Once again, take time to ask yourself these questions and examine your life to see if it is an example of godliness. Remember, the shortcomings that you have aren't things that you are going to be able to change, but they are things that God wants to change in you as you yield yourself to Him.

- Do you do good to those who are mean to you?

Most people will normally respond one of two ways to those who hurt them. They will ignore them and try to avoid them or they will be mean and hurtful right back to that person.

- Do you rejoice with others who are rejoicing?

It is easy to rejoice when things go our way, but when they go someone else's way instead of ours, we need to rejoice with that person.

- When people are going through a hard time, do you go out of your way to show them that you care?
- How are you living in harmony with others around you?

If you are involved in constant fighting and disagreements with others, you are probably the one who is the most at fault. It is amazing how many people always have problems, but they think it is never their fault.

- Are you full of pride? Do you think you are better than others because

of your salvation, or do you realize that you could be in the same boat if it wasn't for the grace of God in your life?

- Do you hang around people who are full of pride, or do you make friends with those who humble themselves before God?
- Are you constantly seeking to do what is honorable before God and others, or do you let your emotions control your actions in the heat of battle?
- Are you currently doing all you can to live peaceably with those around you? If you know someone doesn't like you or has some things against you, have you gone to that person to try to straighten things out?
- Do you leave it to God to take care of problems, or do you try to take matters into your own hands?
- How are you feeding and providing for your enemies? How do you display love to them? If you don't, how can you start?
- Have you let evil overcome your life and cause you to be miserable?

Many people are unwilling to forgive others who have hurt them, so they hold onto that hurt until they become miserable. They let the evil that others have done to them overtake them.

- Do you constantly try to overcome evil with good?
- Your life always needs to be filled with good so other "may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

How Does this Apply to Me?

As you took time to carefully examine your life, I would be pretty sure that there were some areas where you need a change. As was mentioned at the beginning, you don't have the power to change yourself, but God gives you all the power you need. Take time today to make a prayer list of the changes that you want God to make in your life, and take time everyday to ask God to make those changes in you. Of course, you must be willing to follow the leading of the Spirit as He convicts you and directs you throughout your day.

Thought for the day

Sunday

Reading: Romans 12:14-21

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Memory

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.