

Lesson Seven: Goodness – Overcoming Evil With Good

(read Romans 12:17-21)

1. What words and phrases seem most significant to you?
2. What does this passage indicate about making the choice toward goodness?
3. Paul tells his readers, “Do not repay anyone evil for evil” (verse 17). Here and in verse 14, how does he echo Jesus’ teachings (see Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28)?
4. In contrast to retaliation, why is it important for Christians to “do what is right in the eyes of everyone” (verse 17)?
5. In a fallen and sinful world, Paul’s command to “live at peace with everyone” (verse 18) seems impossible. How does he make this command more realistic by adding, “If it is possible” and “as far as it depends on you”?
6. What kinds of thoughts or actions would help you become more of a peacemaker?
7. Paul commands us, “Do not take revenge” (verse 19), assuring us that God will deal with our enemies. How does releasing our need to retaliate help us orient our motivations toward goodness?
8. In verse 20 Paul quotes from Proverbs 25:21-22. Why is it so difficult to treat our enemies this way?
9. Most commentators believe that the phrase “heap burning coals on his head” refers to our enemies becoming ashamed of their actions. Why might a posture of goodness toward those who wish us harm cause this response?

(Summary)

10. Paul tells his readers, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (verse 21). How might a Christian be overcome by evil? How does allowing the Holy Spirit to produce GOODNESS as a first response “overcome evil”?

