

Message preached on Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

TONIGHT: We are going to wrap up Roaming through Romans 12.

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul is continuing to stretch us...really stretch us.

- * Honor other by preferring them over yourself (vs. 10).
- * Be generous (vs. 13)

NOTE: This is not human nature...even if you have tendency to have an easier time in being generous, it is something you learned or were around.

- * Speak good about and to those who curse you...do not speak back about them. (vs. 14)
- * Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those that weep (vs. 15)...all of them, not just people you like.
- * No paybacks...no recompense. (vs. 17)
- * Live peaceably with all men (as much as it is your side of things) (vs. 18)
- * LAST WEEK: Leave payback to God...don't take His job. (vs. 19)

BELOVED: That seems IMPOSSIBLE...what's a person to do?

- * Lay down your flesh
 - "It is just who I am!" Stop it!
- * Renew your mind

Paul finishes on a HIGH NOTE...if these previous things didn't seem challenging enough...he brings in verse 20.

- 1.) If your ENEMY hungers...feed him.
- 2.) If your ENEMY thirsts...give him drink.

"Hunger" – to be hungry, or to suffer lack, to be needy

"Thirst" – a thirst either in the physical sense or soulish sense.

"Drink" - to saturate, water or mind

[&]quot;Feed" - give what he lacks

NOTICE a couple things in regards to your enemy...when they are going through lack or mental health situations.

- ~ Give to him what he needs. Sow seed.
- ~ Give more than he needs...saturate him. *Generosity!*

IN OTHER WORDS: We are not scrimping and saving...we are pouring it out...open hands...*generosity*.

I KNOW: "What, in the world, are we being told to do?"

FIRST: The Golden Rule.

<u>Luke 6:31</u> (Matthew 7:12) – "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." It is the law of seed time and harvest. <u>Galatians 6:7</u>

- ~ Do you want to be given what you deserve?
- ~ Do you want to be given beyond what you deserve.

SECOND: This is our identity in Christ. It is who we really are!

John 13:35 – "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Coals of Fire

NOW, we move to the part that most of us can't wait for...coals of fire! Yes!

"For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head"

YOU: Yes! Bring me those coals of fire to dump on his head!

Slow down, cowboy! Let's look at a few things regarding this...

(MESSAGE) – "Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. *Your generosity will surprise him with goodness.*"

(PASSION) – "And: If your enemy is hungry, buy him lunch! Win him over with kindness. For your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience, and God will reward you with favor."

"On his head" – tends to bring up the point that it has to do with his mind, will and emotions. So, his conscience is probably appropriate, that it will burn...they will feel remorse, burning conviction.

IN OTHER WORDS: You do good to those who have not done good to you...by doing so your actions convicts them to change.

ONE PERSON said we are destroying our enemy...by making him our friend.

BELOVED: That is okay...that is good...it probably is most of what we are learning here.

HOWEVER: We just got done with "vengeance is mine saith the Lord". I think there is more.

QUESTION: Have you ever done something or many things good to someone who ended up continuing to be a jerk? It didn't change them at all. Maybe they even used your good action as a reason to surmise that they were on the right side.

UNDERSTAND: Some people are NOT going to change. They are not going to soften their heart. **REMEMBER:** The same sun that softens butter, hardens clay.

THERE IS A SECOND PART to this, I believe, when you choose to do good to others...in spite of their actions...you have done your part to LIVE PEACEABLY, you have left the vengeance to God...not it is in their court. There will be an opportunity for them to repent, or change...but if they don't then THEY have chosen to live cursed and with the effects of burning coals on their head.

THINK OF IT: If you get a bucket of burning coals dumped on you, you have a choice... *move or stay*. *I suggest moving.*

ONE MORE POINT: The Passion translation ends the verse by saying, "For your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience, and God will reward you with favor."

YOU MAY ASK, where does vs. 20 say anything about favor?

Proverbs 25:21,22 (what Paul is quoting)

- 21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:
- For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

BELOVED: God wants to do AMAZING things for you...but you must sow the precious seed.

ALSO: "Two wrongs don't make a right" – letting them thirst isn't the key...letting them live in lack isn't the key.

Romans12:21 – "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

"overcome" - conquer, prevail, subdue

IN OTHER WORDS: Whatever you do, don't let evil conquer you...but let good conquer you!

UNDERSTAND: Don't just do good...but let good PREVAIL over you...overcome you! Romans 12:9 – "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."

SIMPLY PUT, the Lord said to me...fill yourself up so much with GOOD, yield yourself so much to GOD...that there is NO ROOM for evil anything in you.

- * Lay down your flesh
- * Renew your mind!