

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

59 – dearly loved

### WHEN INJUSTICE PREVAILS:

NOT THIS

ONLY THIS

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

God does not give us authority to take matters into our own hands.

When injustice prevails, and designated authorities fail.

We are to leave room for GOD's wrath.

- ✓ God will guarantee complete justice
  - done in the right way.
  - done at the right time.

God's justice is "just."

### "JUST"

- ✓ Morally right, righteous.
- ✓ Fair and impartial.
- ✓ Appropriate, deserved.

# The BIG question...

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO WANT PEOPLE SAVED, INSTEAD OF PUNISHED?

OF COURSE!

But SALVATION and PUNISHMENT are two separate (though related) issues.

- ✓ If we love God, holiness and righteousness: We must love justice (which includes punishment for sin).
- ✓ Scripture tells us: Punishment must and will take place.


The only REAL question to ask is this:



**WHO IS GOING TO RECEIVE THE PUNISHMENT?**

**Will it be YOU?**

For the wages of sin is death ...  
Romans 6:23a (KJV)



Or will a **SUBSTITUTE** take your place?

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

**IT'S YOUR CHOICE**

... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 6:23b (KJV)



**Either way, the punishment will take place.**

[God will] take vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.  
2 Thes. 1:8 (ULB)

God made [Christ] who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.  
2 Co 5:21 (NET)




**Either way, God will be JUST: He will demonstrate righteous justice.**

It is **righteous** for God ... They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, ...  
2 Thes. 1:6a, 9 (ULB)

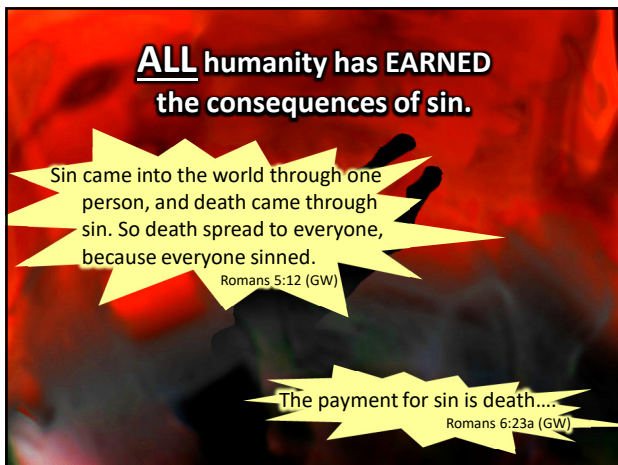
God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement ... to demonstrate his **justice**, ... so as to be **just** and the one who **justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.  
Romans 3:25-26 (NIV)




**ALL** humanity has **EARNED** the consequences of sin.

Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned.  
Romans 5:12 (GW)

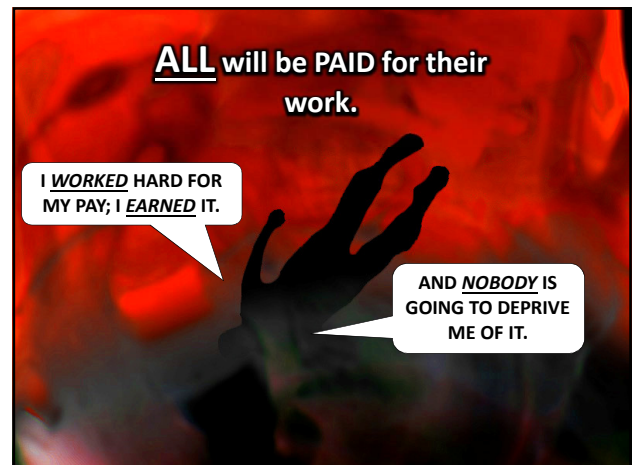
The payment for sin is death....  
Romans 6:23a (GW)



**ALL** will be **PAID** for their work.

I **WORKED** HARD FOR MY PAY; I **EARNED** IT.

AND **NOBODY** IS GOING TO DEPRIVE ME OF IT.



**ALL will be PAID for their work.**

I **WORKED** HARD FOR MY PAY; I **EARNED** IT.

AND **NOBODY** IS GOING TO DEPRIVE ME OF IT.

**NOBODY... EXCEPT FOR ME.**

**EXCEPTION: ONE group of people won't get paid.**

**I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR PAY AWAY FROM YOU...**

**... AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING YOU DID NOT EARN.**

... it is not from works, so that no one can boast.  
Ephes. 2:9 (NET)

**This ONE group of people will have their wages taken away from them.**

TAKE AWAY MY PAY?

THAT'S **UNFAIR!**

**YES, IT IS UNFAIR... ESPECIALLY FOR ME.**

I **WORKED** FOR THE LAKE OF FIRE!

**This ONE group of people will get what they don't deserve.**

**I'M GOING TO CHANGE YOU INTO A PERSON WHO WANTS TO LOVE AND OBEY ME.**

For we are **His** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.  
Ephes. 2:10 (ESV)

**This ONE group of people will experience CHANGES of radical proportions.**

I WILL UNITE YOU WITH ME...

SO I WILL EXPERIENCE **YOUR ETERNAL DEATH** ...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin ...  
1 Peter 2:24a (ESV)

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, ...  
Romans 6:5a (ESV)

**CHANGES in eternity.**

**... AND YOU WILL EXPERIENCE MY ETERNAL LIFE ...**

... [so that we might] live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.  
1 Peter 2:24b (ESV)

... we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.  
Romans 6:5 (ESV)

**... BEGINNING NOW, WITH A NEW LIFE ...**

**CHANGES now.**

**WITH NEW INTERESTS, NEW VALUES ...**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

I will put my laws in their hearts and will write them on their minds, ...  
Hebrews 10:16b (ISV)

**A new way of life.**

**... WITH NEW DESIRES, AND A NEW WAY OF LIVING.**

For the grace of God ... teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ...  
Titus 2:11a, 12 (NIV)

You were taught to change the way you were living.  
... you were taught to have a new attitude.  
You were also taught to become a new person created to be like God, truly righteous and holy.  
Ephes. 4:22a, 23-24 (GW)

**And a new way of relating to others.**

**NOW YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD... AND YOU CAN LOVE EACH OTHER.**

**NOW YOU ARE MY DEAR FRIENDS ... AND YOU CAN BE DEAR FRIENDS TO EACH OTHER.**

**NOW YOU ARE MY FAMILY ... AND YOU CAN BE FAMILY TO EACH OTHER.**

**ALL OF THESE... IN WAYS THE WORLD CANNOT COMPREHEND.**

**ALL this!!!**

**LOVED**

**DEAR FRIENDS**

**FAMILY**

**AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT IT...**

**We don't deserve any of it.**

**AND NEITHER DO THE OTHER PEOPLE WE SHARE THESE CHARACTERISTICS WITH.**

**OUR THEME VERSE CONTAINS THE PHRASE "MY FRIENDS."**

Do not take revenge, **my friends**, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.  
Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

- It can also be translated as "**dear friends**," or "**beloved**."
- In the New Testament Greek language, this word is related to the word "**LOVE**," the theme of this entire section of Romans 12:9-21.

**It is a reminder that we are loved.**

**THIS COMMAND CAN BE QUITE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW.**

**ESPECIALLY IN CASES OF EXTREME INJUSTICE**

**Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.**

Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

> It goes against everything that comes natural to us. <

**THIS PHRASE "MY FRIENDS" REMINDS US THAT THE ONE WHO GAVE US THIS COMMAND (ultimately = God) DID SO OUT OF GREAT LOVE.**

**Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.**

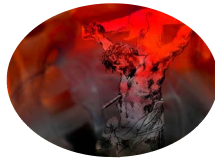
Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

**He cares, and he desires the best of good for us.**

**SO NEXT TIME YOU'RE TEMPTED TO TAKE REVENGE...**

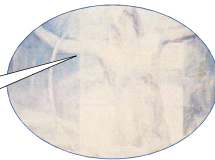


**REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN TRUST HIM TO AVENGE THE RIGHT WAY...**



**OR EVEN A BETTER WAY!**

**I CAME TO YOU... SO THAT YOU COULD COME TO ME.**



# Your Mission...

**IF YOU'RE FOLLOWING JESUS, REMEMBER:**

**WHO YOU WERE.  
WHO YOU ARE.  
(AND WHO GOT YOU THERE.)**

**(THIS WILL INFLUENCE HOW YOU LIVE.)**

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# Your Mission...

**"Do not take revenge, my friends, ..."**  
**Romans 12:19a**

## **"DEAR FRIENDS" OR "BELOVED"**

("One who is loved")

A New Testament concept of special significance, used *only* of Jesus Christ and of those who are united with him.

### ***THE NEW TESTAMENT USE OF THE WORD***

#### **In "everyday" use (seen in some parables about Jesus).**

- This word could be used to describe close relationships, such as parent and child, family members, close friends, etc.

#### **In the New Testament, *before* the cross.**

The gospels have *much* to say about love. But this specific word "beloved" was used *only* in relation to *Jesus*, who came to save us and to restore our fellowship with God.

- Expressing the Father's supreme delight in him (and approval of what he would do for us) - Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; etc.
- Also found in parables about Jesus - Mark 12:6; Luke 20:13.

#### **In the New Testament, *after* the cross.**

It is *because* of what Jesus has done, that we now have a special relationship with God and with each other.

- We are loved (beloved) by God - Romans 1:7; Ephesians 5:1 (as his children).

- Made possible by our union with Christ (by being "in the Lord") - Philemon 1:16; Ephesians 6:21; Romans 16:8; etc.
- The word may be used to address God's people in general - 1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:16; 1 John 4:7; Jude 1:17; etc.
- The word may be used to describe people who are faithful, who are characterized by service to God, and who hold firmly to the truth - Colossians 1:7; 4:7, 9; Ephesians 6:21; 3 John 1:1; etc.
- The word may be used to address individuals who have a special relationship to the speaker - Acts 15:25 (Barnabas and Paul, who were given a special mission); Romans 16:5 (Paul's first convert to Christ from Asia); 2 Timothy 1:2 (Paul's spiritual "son"); 1 Timothy 6:2 (a slave's master, if both are saved); 2 Peter 3:15 (Paul, as a gifted teacher); etc.
- The word was often used when an apostle was about to address God's people about a matter of great importance (and sometimes difficult to accept). It was a reminder that the instructions were spoken out of love. (But *not* using that word does *not* make the apostle's instructions any less important!)

### ***MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE - SOMETIMES INTRODUCED BY REMINDING THE PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE "BELOVED"***

- Rebuke and warnings against sin - 1 Corinthians 10:14 (flee idolatry); James 1:16 (don't be deceived about sin); 1 Peter 2:11 (don't appease sinful desires); etc.
- Encouragement to be faithful and godly - 2 Corinthians 7:1 (strive for holiness); Jude 1:20 (growing in the faith); 1 John 4:7, 11 (the need to love each other); etc.
- (Other) - 2 Peter 3:17 and 1 John 4:1 (warnings about false teachers); 2 Corinthians 12:19 (explaining one's motives); etc.