

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

**61 – "It is written":  
Payday... guaranteed.**

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 (NIV)

**Some translations: "The *wrath of God*"  
(with "of God" in italics).**

- The italics show us that the phrase is not in the original text, but has been added for clarity.
- The word "wrath" could refer to any designated authority that God may have provided for carrying out his will.
- **However, the context (the second half of the verse) shows us that the primary reference is to God.**

**God has promised  
to personally deal with the injustice.**

He will repay them for what they have done.

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 (NIV)

**This is a quote of Deuteronomy 32:35a.**

It is mine to avenge; I will repay.

Deut. 32:35a (NIV)

>> God's promises have not changed! <<

**We also read in the book of Hebrews:**

For **we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," ...**

Hebrews 10:30a (NIV)

- Jesus' followers know the one who said this: the God who is faithful, true and unchanging.
- Time moves on; but since God said this, it remains true .

⌈ This was written to people who were suffering great injustice, who were becoming discouraged because of it. ⌋

★ **God will PAY BACK** ★

But the payback won't be only for those who have wronged us.

He will pay **all** people back for what they have done.

Romans 2:6 (GW)



**GUESS WHO THIS  
"ALL" INCLUDES!**



✓ **The SAVED will be paid back**  
for what they have done.

✓ **The UNSAVED will be paid back**  
for what they have done.

He will give everlasting life to those who search for glory, honor, and immortality by persisting in doing what is good.

But he will bring anger and fury on those who, in selfish pride, refuse to believe the truth and who follow what is wrong.

Romans 2:7-8 (GW)

### **ALL OF US will be paid back...**

There will be suffering and distress for every person who does evil, for Jews first and Greeks as well. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for every person who does what is good, for Jews first and Greeks as well.

Romans 2:9-10 (GW)

★ **And the pay will be righteous, fair and just.** ★

God does not play favorites.

Romans 2:11 (GW)

INCLUDING  
THE SAVED?

**YES!**

The SAVED will be paid back for what they have done.

**But this doesn't mean they work for their salvation!**

God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it.

Ephes. 2:8-9 (GW)

Rather:

**Salvation results in changed conduct.**

People who are saved will have a different type of works than what they had before they were saved.

God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with **good works that he has prepared for us to do.**

Ephes. 2:10 (GW)

Can you PROVE that  
payday is coming?

**YES!**

HOW?

**IT'S  
SIMPLE!**

**PROOF #1 – God said it.**

... says the Lord.

Romans 12:19c (NIV)

**PROOF #2 – It's in the Bible.**

... for it is written ...

Romans 12:19 (NIV)

**THIS  
is all  
the  
proof  
we  
need.**

★ **When God says it, it cannot be false.**

... God, who cannot lie, ...

Titus 1:2b (NASB)

... it is impossible for God to lie, ...

... Hebrews 6:18b (NASB)

★ **If it's in the Bible, it cannot be undone.**

... Scripture cannot be broken ...

John 10:35b (ESV)

**It's a matter of AUTHORITY.**

**When Scripture speaks, it demands acceptance.**

❖ Our only options are to:

- ✓ Accept it... or
- ✓ Experience the wrath of God for not accepting it.

❖ God does not leave it for us to "vote" on, or to "decide" if we want to call it true. It is true, even if we choose to call it false.

**We can choose to deny what Scripture says...**

❖ But we will stop our pretension at the final day of judgment.

**It's a matter of AUTHORITY.**

You can suppress the truth ... but you cannot stop it from being true.

... people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, ...  
... Romans 1:18b (NET)

You can reject the truth... but you cannot stop the consequences.

But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.  
Romans 2:8 (NIV)

**This issue doesn't depend on a few isolated verses.**

... telling us that God's Word is "inspired" ("God-breathed")...  
 All Scripture is God-breathed ...  
2 Timothy 3:16a (ISV)

... or that it comes from the Spirit of God (and not from people)...

No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever originated through a human decision. Instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.  
2Peter 1:20b-21 (ISV)

**Rather, every verse in Scripture demands acceptance.**

When Scripture says ...

"It is written"  
[found many places in Scripture] It simply means ...

"This is from God; it is true and must be accepted."

**Since this is true ...**

Every word of God proves true.  
Proverbs 30:5a (NLT)

**We can conclude ...**



When everything goes wrong and injustice fills the land (and ruins our lives)...

**We can rest assured that, in the end, all will be well for God's people.**

Simply because:  
**"It is written" that God said it.**

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 (NIV)

**Your Mission...**

**IF HAVE NOT RECEIVED GOD'S CALLING TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE, YOU NEED A NEW FOUNDATION:**

... a foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of **faith toward God** ...  
Hebrews 6:1 (NASB)

**REPENT AND TRUST HIM!**  
**HE WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE PAYDAY YOU HAVE EARNED.**

**Your Mission...**

**IF GOD HAS SAVED YOU, CALLING YOU TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE:**

**DO THE WORKS HE CREATED YOU TO DO,\* AND THEN PAYDAY WILL NOT BE SOMETHING TO FEAR!**



\* (Otherwise, you're doing the devil's works.)

... our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 2:13b-14 (ESV)



Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Cor. 15:58 (NIV)

## Credits

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# Your Mission...

"... for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge;  
I will repay,' says the Lord."  
Romans 12:19b

**What is YOUR attitude toward Scripture...  
Especially when it disagrees with you?**

Do you ignore it, reinterpret it, explain it away, change it?  
Or do you submit to its authority?

## ***YOU, THE WORLD, AND SCRIPTURE***

### **What is your attitude?**

- Some parts of Scripture *are* more difficult to understand (2 Peter 3:16). Do you take the necessary time to learn what they mean; or do you distort them to make them easy, or to say what you want them to say?
- There may be questions about the meaning of some verses; but do you use that as an excuse for ignoring what is clear?
- We could debate all sorts of technical and theological issues; but are you unwilling to submit to the simple truths that are accessible to *any* who are willing to hear them?

### **The world and its judgment of Scripture.**

- When the world judges Scripture, this is *backwards*. Scripture is to judge *us*, not us judge *Scripture!*
- You can *expect* disagreements between what Scripture says and the world's views. You shouldn't be surprised when the world attacks Scripture and its reliability!

- The world is not "neutral" in its views, but has suppressed and distorted the truth it knows - truth that God has revealed, not only through Scripture, but also through creation (Psalm 19:1-4a; Romans 1:18-23, 32; 2:14-15; 2 Peter 3:5-6; John 3:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11; etc.).
- Part of what it means to "follow Jesus" is to *acknowledge* the disagreements between our views and Scripture, and to be willing to let Scripture change *us* - rather than us trying to change *Scripture*. It is *our* thinking that needs to be changed (Romans 12:2), not Scripture.
- Never forget that you (if saved) once had the world's attitude and values (Ephesians 2:3).

### ***THE WAY TO UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE HAS NOT CHANGED***

Make it your goal to neither add to, nor subtract from Scripture (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Matthew 5:18; Mark 7:1-13; Revelation 22:18-19). A good practice is to pay attention to the *context* of the Scripture passage we are reading.

Here is a guideline for understanding the Bible, which was given by John Wyclif, the first person to translate the Bible into the English language. His advice, given over 600 years ago, is as important today as it was when he first wrote it. Re-written in modern English, it is as follows:

*It Will Greatly Help You, For Understanding Scripture:  
If you pay attention not only to what is spoken or written,  
But also of whom it was spoken or written,  
With what choice of words,  
At what time (in history),  
Where (what country or town),  
For what purpose,  
In what circumstances;  
Considering also what is said before (previous verses)  
And what is said after (the following verses).*