

A.M. OUTLINE
10 / 16 / 2022

A "TRANSFORMED" RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION

(Romans 12:1-2, v9-21)

INTRODUCTION - see previous lesson notes on (v1-2), "not conform ... be transformed"

1. (v14) "Bless those who persecute you"

(2 Timothy 3:12) "all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"

"Bless" - (Ephesians 4:29) "no corrupt speech;" be nice; show good manners.

2. "Bless and do not curse" - do not pronounce an eternal doom on them; do not speak evil.

3. Jesus adds to the list: Matthew 5:43-45) "love ... bless ... do good ... pray for those"

4. (v17) "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men"

"evil for evil" - No! Don't do wrong in return; do not do what they do.

(Matthew 7:12) (1 Peter 2:21-23) provides the example of Jesus.

5. (v18) "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"

"If it be possible" - some times we are not able to have peace with another.

"As much as depends on you" - I still have to give my all; however, I cannot force someone else's participation in the peace process.

"Live peaceably with all men" - be sure I do my part living a "transformed" life.

6. (v19) "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord"

"Do not avenge yourselves" - do not take the law into your own hands because
1) God forbids it. 2) It's illegal in a civilized state. 3) it's contrary to the principle of overcoming evil with good.

"Vengeance is Mine ..." - (Romans 13:1-5) God authorizes a legal system, and there will be a payday someday, if not now, certainly at the final judgment.

7. (v20) "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink"

Someday the "enemy" may be in need of necessities of life, and it's opportunity to do good.

"Heap coals of fire on his head" - this is a proverb (Proverbs 25:21-22) meaning, perhaps by responding rightly, it will melt the enmity and stir their conscience.

**8. (v21) "Do not be overcome by evil" - (1 Corinthians 10:12 and Matthew 26:41)
An exhortation that you do not become like them; watch yourself; pray and do good.**

9. (v21) "But overcome evil with good" - 1) overcome what the "enemy" is throwing at you.

2) Overcome any evil within that is tempted to retaliate, pay-back, or get even.

"With good" - stand faithful, renew your mind, and always do good.