



WEEK 5

STUDY GUIDE

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AUGUST 1-5, 2022



Monday August 1, 2022

Read: Romans 12:13-14

Scripture Verse: *“share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

Today’s Thought:

The previous verses of Roman 12:9-10 talked about sincere love. In verse 13, apostle Paul encouraged Christians to express the sincere love with the Lord’s people who are in need by sharing. Very often people of this world share before men to be seen by them, they often expect to be paid. They are motivated by vanity and selfishness. They boast of themselves and magnify their own performances. It is common for un-humbled hearts to be proud of their performances.

Here, the apostle Paul encourages Christians to share with others in brotherly love. Christians should share with others not out of vanity or in the hope of being repaid, but out of deep love for God and for others.

Sharing is God’s command. “Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” Isaiah 58:7.

It is a duty for the Christian to share what he has with everyone who is in need. Share your food with the hungry, your home with the homeless, give clothes to those in need; don’t turn away your relatives. If you do this, “Your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.” Isaiah 58: 8-9a.

If you really are a follower of Jesus and you really believe and love him with all your heart, soul, and mind you should obey this great commandment of Jesus, to love your neighbor as yourselves.

Heavenly Father, thank you for this teaching. You revealed to me in your word that I should share with others not out of vanity, but out of deep love for you and for others. May my brothers and sisters, friends and family, my neighbors and fellow citizens see reflected in me the light of your Son Jesus Christ while I share with your people what you have given me. Help me to attract them to you as you attracted me.

- What have people of the world expected from their performance?
- Are you following Christ by opening hand and heart in generosity and justice?
- What motivates you to share with others?

Further Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Tuesday August 2, 2022

Read: Romans 12:13-14

Scripture Verse: *“share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

Today’s Thought:

The Lord’s people according to this verse are those who share the same faith with you in Jesus Christ. God’s people are those who accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Those who decided by the mercies of God to present themselves as a living sacrifice to God. God’s people are those who do not conform to this world, those who manifested a sincere love to others. The people of God should be an example of obedience and service for God. Those who willingly respond to God’s call are sealed as his holy people when they receive his Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

Speaking of the members of the church, apostle Paul says you are God’s people, and you should share the love of God and God’s grace with others. As people who are consecrated to God you should share his love and his compassion with the lost and those in need. You have the responsibility to share the word of God with the lost and care for the needy, to stand against injustice and oppression. God’s people should look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world according to James chapter 1 verse 27.

So, God’s people are called to demonstrate the love of God to the world, to participate with God in this mission of love and reconciliation through the gospel of Jesus Christ. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbors as yourself.” (Matthew 22: 37,39). Being created in the likeness of God, everyone has supreme value before God. It is our duty to love and value people as God loves and values them, to have compassion and care for the desperate.

We also have the responsibility to minister in their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Share the gospel of grace with them for the salvation of their soul.

God’s people serve sincerely, lead diligently, give generously and show mercy cheerfully. “If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show

mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:8. God's people should devote themselves to do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of God.

Brothers and sisters, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9.

Father God, thank you so much for your word. As God's people, help me to be devoted to loving and serving you and extending love to others. Help me to serve others sincerely, lead diligently, give generously and show mercy cheerfully.

- How can you describe God's people?
- In what way God's people should be an example?
- What are the responsibilities of God's people?
- According to Romans 12:8, How God's people should serve, lead, give and show mercy?

Further Reading: Galatians 6:7-10

Wednesday August 3, 2022

Read: Romans 12:13-14

Scripture Verse: *“share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13*

Today’s Thought:

Romans chapter 12 from verse 9 to 13 apostle Paul gave to the Christians several short exhortations that they are to be devoted to. Such as: sincere love, hate evil, cling to good, devoted to another in brotherly love, honor one another, practice hospitality, etc. What a wonderful checklist to apply to our Christian lives! A Christian who would like to grow deeper in his relationship with God should go through this list and see how he is doing in the various areas of his walk with God. As you consider how you rate yourself with this list, probably you will quickly be aware of areas where improvement is needed.

When Paul says: “Practice hospitality,” he is talking to those who are followers of Christ. He talked in such a way because among Christians there is the temptation to be less than genuine in their hospitality to others. The Bible mentioned some Christians who were hospitable. Such as Gaius, apostle John praised Gaius for his hospitality for the strangers “Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you.” 3John:5. Gaius had not known these Christians personally before, but despite that he had treated them with love.

Hospitality is a characteristic of true Christianity, a sign of conviviality, a sign of true faith in Christ. Hospitality is required of Christians. “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2. Hospitality comes from the heart and should be exercised willingly. “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4: 8-9. Those who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus should practice the love of Christ and hospitality to other members of Christ’s family.

Today, Paul is calling us to love as Jesus loved, so we must not miss any opportunity to show our love and hospitality to others. Because “The king will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”” Mathew 25:40.

The book of Hebrews mentions our duty to show hospitality to strangers for by this some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. My brothers and sisters do not lose the opportunity of serving those whose presence would be a blessing.

Father God, thank you for your precious word. Help me to show hospitality to everyone. Father God, be pleased by how I exercise hospitality and care for others. Help me to not lose the opportunity of serving others.

- In the light of this study, what should you do if you want to grow in your relationship with God?
- According to this list of exhortations above, what area of your life would you like to work on?
- In the light of the Bible, how can you exercise hospitality?

Further Reading: Mathew 25: 34-40

Thursday, August 4, 2022

Read: Romans 12:13-14

Scripture Verse: *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." Roman 12:14*

Today's Thought:

As Christian, wherever you are in the world, whatever the persecution you are facing, be careful with what you are saying to others. Jesus knew that people in the world would hate you, persecute you, even put your life in danger. How would you react before those who persecute you? Will you bless them or curse them?

Through the Bible we have seen how they persecuted Jesus, even his disciples were not spared. Persecution, reviling, reproaching, confiscation of their goods, imprisonment and violent torturing were the fate of the disciples. Under all circumstances Jesus taught them never repay evil with evil, on the contrary they should love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

Instead of harboring animosity for those who persecute us, we should open their eyes, help them to know they are acting in ignorance. Because "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2Cor 4:4. We should follow Paul's instruction in Romans 12:14a "Bless those who persecute you." Our duty is, keep on blessing those who persecute us, praying for them, and continue to love them. Give them another chance as God has given us another chance. Who knows if your persecutors could be a faithful servant of God someday?

That is why when you are reviled or insulted, give back blessings to those who show you disrespect, misunderstanding. When they persecute you for God's sake, don't give up. "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2Timothy 3:12.

The desire of our heart for you is to imitate Christ by blessing those who betrayed and mistreated him. You should continue to follow and serve Christ no matter the circumstances.

Do you remember these words? "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." 1Pierre 3:9. If you do so, God's

protection will be yours, his face will shine on you, he will hear your prayers when you call upon him. It is better to suffer for doing good than to repay evil with evil. Christian's life wasn't easy for the earlier Christian, it's still the same for you. Keep on acting justly, always doing what is right, blessing others and you will be blessed!

Thank you for your word, Lord. Help me not to repay evil with evil to those who persecuted me. Give me strength and courage to pray for them and bless them with all my heart. Give them another chance as you have given me in your Son Jesus Christ.

- Why are we not surprised by the persecution of our enemies?
- Why is it important to bless our persecutors?
- How can we bless our persecutors?

Further Reading: 1 Peter 3:8-11

Friday, August 5, 2022

Read: Romans 12:13-14

Scripture Verse: *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse (Psalm 62:4, 1 Pierre 3:10" Roman 12:14*

Today's Thought:

The Apostle Paul gave this exhortation to the Christians of Rome: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." We have seen persecution, reviling, imprisonment, torturing and even death were the fate of the disciples' life. But despite all, they never called upon God to exercise his judgment against them, even to repay evil with evil. Instead of cursing them, they preferred to practice the teachings of Jesus Christ. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28. As a Christian in the midst of persecution, what would be your reaction? Would you call God to burn them with fire?

This command invites you to love your enemies, to do good to them, to pray for them. You should ask God to help you respond with love to the hatred of which you are victims. Pray and bless those who hurt you. We must not curse because the Bible says: "Do not take revenge, my dear 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. Do you remember Jesus' arrestation in Matthew 26:53? He could call on his Father to put at his disposal more than twelve legions of angels to destroy the crowd armed with swords and clubs who came to capture him, but he didn't do it. They spit in his face and struck him with their fists and slapped him, but He never cursed them, never repaid evil with evil. The love of Christ for us goes beyond his sufferings to bring us into a relationship with him, including those who hated him.

Therefore, Christians must follow the example of Jesus Christ to renounce hatred, wrath, and cursing in favor of love and blessing, even towards our worst enemies.

Someone says: "The blessing in favor of our enemies can be a word of wonder and hope, nourished by faith in a powerful and generous God who rains down his graces on all men."

Instead of cursing, Christians should be able to communicate the love of God to others. Sometimes we cause damage in the lives of others with

our negative words. As Christian we should keep our tongue from evil and our lips from deceitful speech against others.

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for your word. In your mercy give me a heart of love and compassion for others. Help me to keep my tongue and my lips from deceitful words. Burn in me all that is not from you so that only your love remains in order not to curse my enemies, but to love them, to do good to them and to pray for them.

- Is it right to curse or to call upon God to curse your enemies?
- What attitude should you have when you are persecuted?
- How should you treat your enemies?

Further Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-16

NOTES



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