

Sermon Notes

City on a Hill: Romans 12

“Revenge – It’s not the way to go” – Romans 12:19-21

I. Introduction

A. Illustration – vengeance.

B. Our text: Romans 12:19-21

II. Exposition

A. Romans 12:19

1. Literally, “Give place to wrath.”

a. First: Let our enemy’s wrath burn itself out.

b. Second: With the insertion of “God,” leave room for him to exact retribution.

1. More support for the second understanding.

2. John MacArthur

3. James Boice

4. Law code to Israel

a. Exodus 21:22-25 (proportional justice)

1. Perhaps not take literally.

Exodus 21:18, 26

5. Important – Having received maximum mercy, be careful about requiring maximum justice.

B. Romans 12:20

1. Paul is describing what 12:18 means.

2. Quoted from Proverbs 25:21-22

3. Two principle views

a. _____

b. _____

Possibly linked to an ancient Egyptian practice.

C. Verse 21

1. This verse qualifies all that preceded it.

a. Gracious responses in the face of hostility and evil honors God.

D. What about Christian usage of civil court?

1. Does not preclude the civil court, but beware of Christians taking Christians to court.

a. I Corinthians 6

2. Always consult the ecclesiastical court.

III. Points for Reflection

A. God’s wrath is real and accumulating for all wrongs done except those covered by the blood of Christ.

B. Be careful about expecting and pressing for maximum justice with your brother when you have received maximum mercy.

C. When in the company of evil, seek the good, the beautiful, and the truth.