

“AVENGE NOT”

First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia S17A (Ref #1955 NAC/#251 Rdg) 0926 21

The huge number of injustices and crimes against one another is beyond counting. Harming someone intentionally is one of the first signs of a sinful heart and quite obvious that self is in control. The ‘Garden of Eden’ was nothing but peace, no crime, no angry words or upsetting incident, but, after Adam rebelled against God, sin entered in. The first serious wrong and horrible crime came. Cain murdered his own brother. To resent a wrong and strike back in violence, shows clearly how one may act or react when under the control of Satan.

Eden had been peaceful when there were two residents in the garden who had the image of God and the attitude of Christ. No one did any wrong to anyone, resentment did not exist. To love one another was the only way that they could act, because the love of God was in their heart and in full control of every response.

When Adam rejected the Word of God, and accepted the word of the serpent, big changes took place. Adam became opposite to the way that he was made to be, and he rebelled against God. It would result that way, because the nature of God is opposite to the nature of Satan—and their actions would be completely opposite.

Serious wrongs continue to increase every day, even against those that one may promise their love for as long as they shall live. Satan’s influence is clearly seen in the world. In millions of homes and businesses, there are injustices, mean treatment, and wrongs perpetrated against one another. Resentment and worldly plans to get back at someone, has also increased and sometimes in more violent ways. All these plans to correct injustices have failed to bring any peace.

God has provided a way through the Atonement for correcting injustices. His plan is always successful, and it always corrects the injustice, when we follow His plan. Dealing with wrongs in this way, not only corrects the injustice, but many spiritual blessings are received, along with spiritual enlightenment, inner peace, and increased faith.

The perfect sacrifice of Christ gives us an Atonement right to be delivered from injustices, wrongs, and evil actions. Everything that could disturb our peace in any way

was borne on the Cross—NKJV Isaiah 53:5 “The chastisement for our peace was upon Him.” That Atonement sacrifice placed God with us and for us—every moment of every day.

It is God’s desire to correct all injustices done to us—and He is the only One who knows how to do it in a right and proper way. Only God can turn the wrongs that Satan inspires people to do to us, into a spiritual blessing for us, but it must be met in a right and scriptural way.

It is our great privilege to place every injustice; every act of unfairness, all discrimination or wrongs, and any favoritism in the hands of God, who is infinite in mercy, love, wisdom, and power. God has promised to deliver us from every evil person or thing, and to prepare us for His kingdom, but we must let Him do it—that is the choice everyone has to make—let God right the wrong—or try to do it ourselves.

We find in the Bible not only teaching concerning God righting our wrongs but also many examples that show us how perfectly it will work out.

King David committed a serious wrong against Uriah and a serious sin against God. He took the man’s wife, and then arranged a cover-up by having Uriah killed in battle. The prophet Nathan was sent to inform David that the wrong he had done, was a serious sin against God. Trouble in David’s home and kingdom appeared immediately. His favorite son Absalom rebelled against him and attempted to take his kingdom.

David’s confession, repentance, and the forsaking of that sin are recorded for our benefit. AV Psalm 51:1-4 *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.”*

The king did, what everyone else has to do as 1 John 1:9 tells us, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* The result of that repentance is NIV Psalm 103:2-4 *“Praise the*

LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit [destruction AV] and crowns you with love and compassion. 6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.”

God restores our rights, if we have been seriously wronged; and He judges the perpetrators of the crimes or offenses against us. We must get out of the way and let God do His work. AV Romans 12:19 *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”*

Jesus taught the same thing concerning wrongs and injustices done to us. He said that we are not to strike back at anyone who wants to harm us or take anything from us. This includes being robbed, or those who want to borrow, and don't intend to pay it back.

Jesus was referring to Exodus 21:24 when He said in AV Matthew 5:38-42 *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”* NKJV Luke 6:29 [adds] *“do not ask them back.”*

God promises many blessings, if we will follow His plan of allowing Him to right our wrongs. Anything we have abandoned, or left for the Lord's sake, and because the Gospel message of Christ teaches us to give it up, is promised back with great rewards.

Anything we get rid of for His sake, Jesus said, will be given back in abundance NKJV Mark 10:29-30 *“a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the world to come, eternal life.”*

It is God's plan to right all wrongs—from the most minor to the most major injustice. These wrongs include everything that anyone did to disturb us, upset us, or

make us unhappy. It is often that the members of our own household act in such a way that it disturbs our peace. People act natural around the home, and often say or do things that they would never want anyone outside the home to know. God, however, wants us to enjoy His peace in our homes and everywhere else. Isaiah 53:5, *The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.*

When the blood of a lamb was on the door in Egypt, a dog could not bark to disturb their peace. They were under the blood of an animal, but we are under the Blood of the true Passover Lamb—Jesus Christ the Son of God. We have a greater right to be delivered and protected from disturbing incidences—anywhere and at any time. Jesus said NKJV Luke 10:5 *"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it."*

If anyone in the home is willing to meet God's easy conditions of the Bible, His unlimited power is promised to rebuke the devil in any member of the household that he may be using to disturb the peace of that home. We must know the conditions that enable peace to be enjoyed.

The first is that we are to be the one who brings peace—not the one who starts arguments. The apostle reminds us in Romans 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* The will of God is to be at peace with one another—whenever and however, be a peacemaker. *"Have salt in yourselves,"* Jesus said in NIV Mark 9:50, *"and be at peace with each other."*

When God has full possession of us, and Jesus Christ has taken His rightful place in our heart; it is then that His Spirit will empower us to act according to the will of God, which would result in Divine peace within and a right attitude in our hearts toward everyone else.

We are to first blame the devil, not the one wronging us, it is his control of human beings that is the cause of all wrong actions in the world. The second step in bringing peace is to not resent anything that anyone may have done or said about us. This is what Jesus meant, when He said we must forgive everyone from the heart. NIV Mark

11:25 *"When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*

Jesus also made this very plain when He told of a servant who asked a king to forgive him of a huge debt. This same servant, after he had been forgiven, later would not forgive a fellow servant of a minor debt but had him arrested and thrown in prison. When the king was informed of the incident NIV Matthew 18:34-35 tells us, *"In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*

The minute we hold resentment or hard feelings against anyone, for any reason, we are refusing to forgive from the heart. To forgive from the heart means we forget in our memory, to wipe the slate clean, gone forever. It means that we treat the offender as if the matter never took place. We are to treat them more kind and loving than ever before.

A third step in bringing about peace, is to give the entire matter to God—for Him to right the injustice. A final decision to trust God in this, will enable Him to manifest His full power in bringing about justice, peace, and victory. Along with that, we will receive new spiritual light and God's blessings with it.

We are not to worry either, about anything that Satan would try to make upsetting to us, whether it be a minor or major disturbance. WEY Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God. And then the peace of God, which transcends all our powers of thought, will be a garrison to guard your hearts and minds in union with Christ Jesus."*

All worry, fear, and anxiety come from the devil—who causes tension, anxiety, dread, and fear. Satan constantly portrays worse-case scenarios, and makes his thoughts seem like our own thoughts, and founded on facts—when they are lies from the originator of lies.

Jesus told the Jewish people in John 8:44 that the devil *was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Being scriptural in this matter of wrongs met right, is a huge factor in the death of self—something that must take place. Self always wants to even the score, retaliate, and get revenge—but we are told in Romans 12:19, *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

If we will allow God to right our wrongs, then the Lord Jesus takes up residence in our heart, and we will see spiritual growth. God will supply all the light and strength we need the moment our lives are fully surrendered for His will to be done and His Word to be the rule of our life. We will have that peace within that is promised to us and will lead us to many blessings in this life and on into eternity.

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