



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

LEADER'S RESPONSE WHEN WRONGED (PART 2)

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

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How do you respond when others desire to hurt you. If the truth be known you respond by returning "evil for evil." However, we are to return evil with good. Although this is a lofty mandate it can only be accomplished by the power of God. The indwelling Spirit of Christ working within you as a Believer produces Christ-likeness in the maturity process. So the question I ask—where are you in the process when others seek to do you harm.

A LEADER MUST EXHIBIT A SELFLESS ATTITUDE WHEN OTHERS HARM US

EXPLAINED:

"Bless" is the word from which we get our word for "eulogy." To speak well of. To pronounce a blessing. To ask God to bestow a divine blessing upon.

"You Bless" is an imperatival command. As a Christian this eulogy it is not an option for those seeking to harm us. This must be our way of life, if we are to live Un-hypocritically, according to verse 9 of Romans 12 as we shun evil and cling to good.

The word **διώκω (de-o-ko)** means—"to persecute" means—to peruse, to oppress, to harass. It is a systematic program of oppression and harassment with the intent of doing harm.

These are those to whom Christians are to invoke a divine blessing upon. We are given an imperatival command to call down divine blessings on those who are continually and habitually, in an ongoing pattern, persecuting us.

We do not always do this—do we? Donald Gray Barnhouse reminds us that *"the child of Adam by nature is a rock which, when struck, bring forth bitter water. But the child of God is a new rock, which, when struck, brings forth sweet water. The*

Christian is to live in such a fashion that it is apparent that he is not animated by original human life, but is indwelt by Christ."

James reminds us of this—

James 3:8-12 "But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh."*

A Double blessing is required as Paul reminds his readers to bless and never curse.

"To curse" means—to cause injury or harm by means of a statement regarded as having some supernatural power, often because a deity or supernatural force has been evoked—'to curse, curse.'

Mark 11:21 "Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered.'"

μή (may) the strongest Greek prohibition. No no never never curse at any time, Do NOT Curse. Do not pronounce an imprecatory condemnation on those who continually, as a habit of life, perusing you with the intent of harm, oppression or harassment, who may even want to take your life.

We are to ask God instead to bestow a divine blessing upon those seeking mal intent and destruction on us.

EXPERIENCE:

BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAYS @ 12 NOON,

WEDNESDAYS @ 8:30 A.M., ROOM 317 BLATT BUILDING

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During our Legislative Bible Study we have been looking at 1 Thessalonians 2:14

"For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews."

What is persecution or the sufferings we experience today? What does it look like?

Sadly, it come from within the body of Christendom. You can ask many Pastors and they will readily that most insults and injuries come from those who are supposed to be allies.

We in America may not experience death as a result of persecution or suffering but we will face our own trials and tribulations as we seek to follow Christ. You have yours and I have mine!

Are you following the example of Christ, Stephen, Paul?

EXEMPLIFIED: DO YOU HAVE A BEATITUDE ATTITUDE?

Matthew 5:44 "'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"

Luke 6:27-28 "'But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Luke 23:34 "But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves."

Acts 7:60 "Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep."

Stephen's last gasping breath was a prayer for those who were taking his very life.

1 Peter 2:21-23 " For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;"

IN HIS SERMON ON BEATITUDES: MEEKNESS HAS A DIVINE BEAUTY AND SWEETNESS IN IT. IT BRINGS CREDIT TO TRUE RELIGION; IT WINS UPON ALL. THIS MEEKNESS CONSISTS IN THREE THINGS: THE BEARING OF INJURIES, THE FORGIVING OF INJURIES, THE RECOMPENSING GOOD FOR EVIL. . . THIS THREEFOLD CORD OF SCRIPTURE SHOULD NOT EASILY BE BROKEN. TO RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL IS **BRUTISH**; TO RENDER EVIL FOR GOOD IS **DEVILISH**; TO RENDER GOOD FOR EVIL IS **CHRISTIAN**.—**THOMAS WATSON**

When Saul lay at David's mercy and David only cut off the skirt of his robe, how was Saul's heart affected with David's meekness? 'Saul called back—*Is that really you, my son David?* Then he began to cry. And he said to David—**You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil.** (1 Samuel 24:16-19).

THIS 'HEAPING OF COALS' MELTS AND THAWS THE HEART OF OTHERS. IT IS THE GREATEST VICTORY—TO OVERCOME AN ENEMY WITHOUT STRIKING A BLOW. THE **FIRE** WILL GO WHERE THE **WEDGE** CANNOT. **MILDNESS** PREVAILS MORE

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THAN *FIERCENESS*. ANGER MAKES AN ENEMY OF A FRIEND. MEEKNESS MAKES A FRIEND OF AN ENEMY.—

THOMAS WATSON

TO RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL IS BEASTLIKE. TO RETURN EVIL FOR GOOD IS FIENDLIKE. TO RETURN GOOD FOR GOOD IS MANLIKE. BUT TO RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL IS GODLIKE. THIS IS TRUE PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY, AND THE FULFILLING OF BOTH LAW AND GOSPEL. — *SIMEON GREEN*

Philippians 2:3-8 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

The Christian life is a life of self sacrifice. It is the practice of killing personal preferences and self interests. That's the principle of a living and holy sacrifice.