

Jeff Lingerfelt  
PO Box 12131, SC 29211  
803-467-7634  
[Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org](mailto:Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org)

*LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS*  
*MINISTERING TO ONE-ANOTHER (PT. 3)*  
1THESSALONIANS 5:12-22

*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,<sup>13</sup> and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.<sup>14</sup> We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.<sup>15</sup> **See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.**<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always;<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit;<sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances.<sup>21</sup> But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;<sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.*

**"PITHY PARADIGM"** *What a common dictate of the fallen and unregenerate heart to resent and recriminate! How alien to natural feeling to answer cutting taunts, and meet unmerited wrong with the Divine method the Gospel prescribes—"Overcome evil with good!" ... Reader! when tempted to utter the harsh word, or give the cutting or hasty answer, seek to check yourself with the question, "Is this the reply my Savior would have given?" If your fellow-men should prove unkind, inconsiderate, ungrateful, be it yours to refer the cause to God. Speak of the faults of others only in prayer; manifesting more sorrow for the sin of the censorious and unkind, than for the evil inflicting on yourselves.—*  
**Retaliate!** *No such word should have a place in the Christian's vocabulary. Retaliate!* *If I cherish such a spirit towards my brother, how can I meet that brother in heaven? "But you have not so learned Christ." THE MIND OF JESUS—John MacDuff, 1870*

**1. "ADMONISH THE UNRULY"** The **Wayward** have an active and rebellious attitude. They were out of step with the direction everyone else was headed.

**2. "ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED"** These are the **Worried**, small souled folks who had become discouraged and despondent because of life's circumstances which had come upon them and had brought them to the point of timidity.

**3. "HELP THE WEAK"** These folks were the **Weak** among the assembly who were in need of bearing and carrying. They need more than encouragement: they actually need someone to come alongside and help them to do what they need to do.

**4. BE PATIENCE WITH EVERYONE.** These church members are **Wearisome** and slow of spiritual growth. You may be tempted to become impatience thus the instruction is to be patience. Thus we are to have a "long-fuse"; a prolonged restraint of "**thumos**," of emotion, anger or agitation.

**5. NEVER REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL.** This class of folks are the **Wicked**. They are the immature among the assembly who may be new believers and are in the process of putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ.

"**See to it**" means not necessarily the mere act of seeing, but also the perception of some act. Therefore we are to "be careful, be on guard, make sure!" It is the ongoing active awareness to heed as a first priority.

**Hiebert** adds that this command... "see to it" implies that watchfulness is necessary to keep the prohibited practice from creeping in. The plural imperative "make sure" is clearly addressed to the church as a whole, not just the leaders. All have a standing duty to see to it that this undesirable practice does not gain entrance. The temptation to retaliate generally comes on the personal level, hence each member must see to it that he on his part does not give in to it. The danger was real because

**YOU ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS YOUR  
WEAKEST LINK.**

of the persecution being experienced by the members of the church. (Hiebert, D. Edmond: 1 & 2 Thessalonians: BMH Book. 1996)

**Retaliation Is Never An Option For A Believer!**

"Repay is the injunction that we are NEVER to seek! In the present context we are not to repay or to retaliate. NEVER strike back and try to get even with someone who may have hurt you in the process of helping him or her. Retaliation is categorically prohibited.

**Calvin** writes "For if it is forbidden to render evil for evil, every desire to do injury is wrong."

**Hiebert** states, The prohibition against retaliation is distinctly Christian. It is grounded in the teaching of our Lord (Mt 5:38-48) and was inculcated by the apostles (Romans 12:17-21; 1 Pet 3:9). Compliance with this demand constitutes one of the sternest tests of Christian character.

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. (Lev 19:18)

Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness; but my hand shall not be against you. (1Sam 24:13)

He who returns evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house. (Pr 17:13)

Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you. (Pr 20:22)

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles (Pr 24:17)

Do not say, "Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work." (Pr 24:29)

**"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'**

**"But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matthew 5:38-39)**

Never (how often?) pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If

possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, (why not?) for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:17-21)

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, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 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 (1 Peter 2:21-23)

Believers are not to return evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:9)

**"But always"** pursue on each and every occasion. This is to be our practice! No exceptions!

Be proactive and seek out opportunities!

**Matthew Henry** writes that...we must study to do what is our duty, and pleasing to God, in all circumstances, whether men do us good turns or ill turns; whatever men do to us, we must do good to others. We must always endeavor to be beneficent and instrumental to promote the welfare of others, both among ourselves (in the first place to those that are of the household of faith), and then, as we have opportunity, unto all men, (Galatians 6:10)

**LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY**

Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am

Prayer Request-[jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org](mailto:jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org)