

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER
1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York
716-773-3748 www.bfcgi.org

THE LORD'S DAY
November 16, 2014 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann
Piano Wendy Baldwin
Announcements Ron Mock

MEDITATION

Romans 12:19-21 (on opposite page)

Psalm 47

Scripture

Prayer

Hymn 196, 198

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 312 – Holy Communion

Hymn 368 “He Lives”

Message Commandment Eight – Steal No More - I Kings 21:1-16

Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 425 “Bind Us Together”

Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

WESTMINSTER CATECHISM

Question 34: What is adoption?

Answer: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God. Scripture: I John 3:1; John 1:12; Romans 8:17

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS—Happy 10 Years!!!

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up

Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm- Ernie Beck

Precept study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Wendy Baldwin

Wednesday Bible study at 9:30am with Jim O'Rourke

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am - Margaret Was

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!

Sunday messages are available on CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday November 26 at 6:30pm

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Paul knows that he is uttering a hard saying, and so begins with the word: Beloved. The people of his time were accustomed to taking revenge, perhaps even more than today. Paul cautions them to not avenge themselves, but rather give place to wrath. What type of wrath is permissible? It is the wrath of God as is made abundantly clear in the quotation in verse 19—*vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord*. It is not our business to repay men for what they do to us. Any effort on our part to elicit revenge will fail, and be disastrous for all concerned.

Paul next offers us with something we can do to our enemies since wrath is not our option. Look at verse 20. We are permitted in regard to our enemies to feed them and give them drink. In doing those kind things, what does that verse say we are really doing to our enemies? The text says that we are heaping coals of fire on their heads. What does that have to do with vengeance belonging to God? Two major opinions are given for what “heaping coals of fire” might have reverence to. First, some say that you are searing them with the coals of judgment and causing them much pain. That view does not fit with the earlier part of verse 20. Note that verse 20 is a quote from Proverbs 25:21-22. Second, the heaping of coals of fire will destroy the person as your enemy. The thought there is that you are bringing remorse to him for his actions when you treat him with kindness. This has much to commend itself and fits the context.

Paul sums it all up in the 21st verse when he says that we must overcome evil with good. God's people who have been listening in the book of Romans to the mercies of God ought to be very prayerful in the presence of these exhortations to holy living. We ought to have regard for the exhortation that begins the chapter: *I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*