

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, 'Vengeance Is Mine; I Will Repay,' Saith the Lord." Romans 12:17-19 KJV

We are not to repay evil for evil. That being said, it does not mean I roll over and play dead if someone wishes to harm me or my family. Vengeance is one thing, protection is another. We are required to provide for our loved ones and protection from evil is part of that responsibility. Like the old Quaker who said to the burglar. "I would not harm thee for the world, my Friend, but thee art standing where I am about to shoot!" I should not seek to harm any, but if they seek to harm me or my own, I am obligated to act. "*God Is Angry with the wicked every day!*" There are certain instincts God Has Created in us and self-preservation is one. "*As much as lieth in you live peaceably.*" To allow another to harm or enslave a friend or a loved one, when it is within my power to prevent it, is complicity. I might as well hand the murderer his gun! To not oppose or to vote for wicked leadership in the name of the greater good, is the same as being part of their evil, however small. There is a distinct difference between a politician and a statesman. Politicians are self-centered liars, grifters, and schemers, while statesmen are God-fearing, wise, and honest leaders. They are never both! We are not to take vengeance, but "*we ought to obey God rather than men.*" If a law of man opposes the Law of God, I am to obey God first, even upon peril of death! If personally threatened for proclaiming the Gospel, we should turn the other cheek, but to allow evil upon my loved ones is not in keeping with God's Written Word. It requires a constant Spiritual Awareness to be able to discern the appropriate action for questionable situations, but some things are just common sense. God Has Promised to Protect me, but I lock my door at night. We are to be peaceable, not contentious. "*Be...wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*" A dove flies away. "*A soft answer turneth away wrath.*" We shouldn't forget, however, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.*" Assume the best, prepare for the worst. You can know men's hearts by their deeds. Always forgive those who seek forgiveness, but only if sought with repentance. God only Forgives the penitent, but is always ready to Forgive whosoever repents. Help the helpless and protect the innocent. Trust God, but don't sit on your hands in the face of evil. God Instituted His Word to expose evil. There are penalties for sin of which believers have a God-mandated responsibility to warn, because...God Will Repay!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men,
Is, now, deterred, because of sin,
Preach the Word to perishing souls,
Perchance they'll hear, and be made whole.--CGP



Jesus said, "*Without Me, ye can do nothing. Because thou hast made the LORD...even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee. For He Shall Give His Angels Charge over thee, to keep thee.*" Do your best. Leave God the rest. Trust begins where effort fails. Do right and trust God to Do what you cannot.

"He that dwelleth in the Secret Place of the most High shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.' Psalms 91:1-2 KJV