

Stark Road Bi Monthly Bible Reading

3/17/2018

Romans 12:14-13:14

In light of our justification (Rom 1-11) how then should we live?

Our relationship with fellow believers 12:9-13

Our relationship with all people, 12:14-21

The lips

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

The heart

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

The mind

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

The hands

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*"[a] says the Lord. 20 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.*"[b] 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

a. Deuteronomy 32:35

b. Proverbs 25:21, 22

Our relationship to government, 13:1-7

Government, a divine institution

13 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

To resist authority is to resist God

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Government's divinely appointed purpose

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

The believer's responsibility to government

5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Our obligation to love, 13:8-10

Debts we must pay, and a debt we can never pay

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" "*You shall not murder,*" "*You shall not steal,*" "*You shall not bear false witness,*"[a] "*You shall not covet,*"[b] and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"[c] 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- a. Some manuscripts omit. "You shall not bear false witness"
- b. Exodus 20:13–15, 17; Deuteronomy 5:17–19, 21
- c. Leviticus 19:18

The urgency for Christ like living, 11-14

Nearness of the day

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

Call for urgent action

Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.