

1/19/20

The Vengeance of God

Romans 3:5 *But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?*

The vengeance of God is not a popular word today in or out of the pulpit. However, we see in v. 6, that **without vengeance, there can be no justice of the world.**

I speak as a man. Hodge tells us that Paul was simply speaking not as an apostle, but speaking as was typical of his day.

Typical of Paul, he answers a question before it is asked: "I am part of God's chosen people, and if my unrighteousness reveals the righteousness of God in all he does, then why does God take vengeance against me?"

That is to say, *But if our unrighteousness proves the righteousness of God*, then is not God unrighteous to take vengeance against us?

V. 5, *Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?*

Modern Dispensational Christianity tells us that the Old Testament God was a God of wrath and vengeance. Dispensationalism says that the New Testament God is a God of love and mercy. However, both Testaments speak very clearly of both love and vengeance.

Three times the Tri-une God tells us he is a consuming fire: Deuteronomy **4:24**, and **9:3**. **Hebrews 12:29** speaks to those who profess to be followers of Christ: *For our God is a consuming fire.* His righteous vengeance must start in the church:

1 Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

When there is no righteous vengeance in the house of God against the evil doer—church discipline—there can be no righteous vengeance in society.

The Hebrew word for vengeance means to **vindicate, to reestablish the cause of justice.**

Vengeance is a defense of justice; vengeance is retribution against evildoers. Without that vengeance, evildoers prosper at the expense of the innocent.

Therefore, those who speak against the ministry of vengeance **deny justice, and support evil.** The attitude of our day is that justice must be set aside in the name of compassion and love. However, love that avoids vengeance destroys justice, and will result in **anarchy.**

Godly love requires vengeance against the evil doer according to his law-word.

The Christian God is a God of both **love** and **vengeance.** He provided his only Son that his people might avoid his righteous vengeance in this life and in the next. The Son has sent the Spirit who works righteousness in the elect.

Nahum 1:2 *God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.*

There are many passages that talk about righteous vengeance: **Jeremiah 15:15, Numbers ch 35 & 2 Corinthians 7:11 & 10:6** *And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Paul answers v. 5 with

V. 6, *how shall God judge...*

That is to say, if God does NOT take vengeance against all unrighteousness, then he cannot *judge the world.* If there is no vengeance, there is no hell.

Paul is speaking to the Israelites in Rome who were secure in their supposed blood tie to Abraham, and they were secure in the fact that **national Israel** had been chosen by God out of Egyptian bondage.

The Old Testament gives us the record of God's dealing with his chosen people. They were proud and confident that they were special in God's eyes. Their false pride and self-confidence led to their hardness in sin. **Was God unrighteous in the past when he took vengeance upon apostate Israel and Judah?**

Moreover, in Matthew 23:34-39 Christ laid out his case against that apostate nation of Israel when Rome totally destroyed it in 70 AD. Clearly, his destructive vengeance was righteous.

Though fallen man overlooks his sins, God does not. God cannot act as if nothing is wrong. Romans 2 tells us that God, in his patience, grace and mercy often postpones the just rewards of sin, or his vengeance against sin as he gives man the chance to repent and submit himself to the Lord Jesus Christ. But though it may be very long in coming, **God's righteousness requires vengeance or justice.**

God has established various methods for exacting vengeance.

His first and primary method is through civil magistrate

The ministry of vengeance or the ministry of justice is not placed in the hands of individuals.

The word of God is clear that personal vengeance and Christianity do not go together.
(“Entertainment” that sells involving sex, blood and vengeance sells.)

Personal vengeance is to be replaced with love and obedience to the law-word of God. The New Testament defines the godly actions that must replace anger and vengeance.

Leviticus 19:18 *Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD. 19 Ye shall keep my statutes.*

Romans 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

The law in clearly states that **personal acts of vengeance are forbidden** to man. In the same verses, the law spells out our **responsibility**.

Romans 12:19

Albert Barnes:

“[T]he command is, to avoid a spirit and purpose of revenge. But this command is not to be so understood that we may not seek for justice, in a regular and proper way, before civil tribunals. If our character is assaulted, if we are robbed and plundered, if we are oppressed contrary to the law of the land, religion does not require us to submit to such oppression and injury without seeking our rights in an orderly and regular manner.”

That is, Christianity does not require that we surrender our rights under God’s law. Unlawful actions require vengeance, but that vengeance must go through God’s proper channels.

Adam Clarke on v. 12:

***Give place unto wrath. Leave room for the civil magistrate to do his duty,** he holds the sword for this purpose; and if he be unfaithful to the trust reposed in him by the state, leave the matter to God, who is the righteous judge: for by avenging yourselves you take your cause both out of the hands of the civil magistrate and out of the hands of God.

Vengeance is mine This fixes the meaning of the apostle, and at once shows that the exhortation, *Rather give place to wrath* or punishment, means, **Leave the matter to the judgment of God;** it is his law that in this case is broken; and to him the infliction of deserved

punishment belongs. Some think it means, "Yield a little to a man when in a violent passion, for the sake of peace, until he grow cooler." (Let things cool off.)

I will repay In my own time and in my own way. But he gives the sinner space to repent, and this longsuffering leads to salvation. *

That is, we are forbidden to seek vengeance in our actions, thoughts or even in our **imagination**s.—how many times have we imagined how we would like to get vengeance? The uncontrolled imagination will lead to serious bitterness, which will defile many.

The individual violated God's law, not ours. We must leave room for the Lord to fulfill his responsibility to exercise his divine justice either through the civil magistrate or through Divine Providence: "*for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*"

The Lord promises payback to the evil doer in his own way, and according to his timing.

Deuteronomy 32:35 *To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in **due time**: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.*

Due time. God's timing is not our timing.

Paul applied Deuteronomy 32:35 in Romans 13:4 *For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

God gave the right of vengeance only with the civil government. He gave the state alone the right to take life. That right can only be exercised according to his law-word or it is murder. Our command is "*Avenge not yourselves, vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay*"

Our obligation is to love our neighbor and our enemy which clearly means fulfilling the 2nd table of the law as the Lord told the rich young man in

Matthew 19:17 *And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

Paul says the same in Romans 13:8 ***Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*** 9 *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* 10 *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

We have **only two divine requirements** in order to maintain social order:

First requirement, vengeance and justice must be left up to God, and his established representative here on earth, the state.

Second requirement, faithful fulfillment of the second table of the law.

Here are some reasons why is our social order falling apart

1) Ecclesiastes 8:11 *Because sentence, or vengeance, against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

Righteous vengeance is delayed.

2) Psalms 36:1 *The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.* Also, Romans 3:18.

There is no fear of God, so there is no fear of vengeance

3) Philippians 4:11 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

If Paul had to learn contentment, how much more must we. Be content, and wait upon the Lord to bring about his righteous vengeance.

4) Hosea 4:9 *And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.*

Many of God's people do not want godly vengeance and justice, so God gives them leaders after their own hearts. .

That spiritual decline in the church results in the decline of Godly vengeance and justice in society.

The denial of godly vengeance not only denies the Christian doctrine hell, but it denies justice, and destroys the social order. However, God's final, complete and total vengeance and justice shall be accomplished in the final judgment when all men must stand before him and face righteous just judgment.

When God's people will not enforce godly vengeance, or discipline, against the evil doer in the church, how can we expect civil government to do what we refuse to do.

People profess a desire for godly justice, yet they do not vote what they profess. Even Christians have no biblical basis for their political vote, so they follow men according to what those men say, rather than according to godly precepts which require men of good reputation.

The State and Vengeance

The ungodly state is not interested in godly justice for several reasons:

First, 1 Peter 4:17 strikes at the root of the problem. Christians do now want a God of vengeance against sin in the church. The result is that there can be no righteous vengeance in society.

The breakdown of godly law and order in the state is because there is a breakdown of law and order in the church. People may want vengeance and justice for others, but not for themselves.

Second, the breakdown of lawful justice works to benefit the ungodly state. Without biblical vengeance against the evil doer, anarchy must reign. That anarchy allows the state to increase its power over people, as the people look to the state to control the anarchy. Simple enforcement of godly vengeance by the state would stop the anarchy.

Example: The chaos that reigned in **Richmond** not long ago was the result of the anarchists attacking those who were peacefully demonstrating. Law enforcement was told to stand down, and let the anarchists have their way. That story has been repeated all over the country, and will probably repeat itself in the most violent way tomorrow in Richmond.

False Flags will be appearing everywhere in order to start a shooting war. Out of the chaos, the anti-gun crowd will make great headway.

Third, the dream of the ungodly for 4,000 years has been to create their own world order, so they use chaos for their evil purposes. They are working to succeed where Nimrod failed with an One World order.

Psalms 2. The wicked cannot ascend into heaven to throw down God, but they can overthrow God in the hearts and minds of the people.

The chaos described by Jeremiah 5:7-9 is being fulfilled right before our eyes.

God is not *unrighteous* when he takes vengeance upon the evildoers.

God has various **methods of executing vengeance**.

He uses **the civil magistrate**. Vengeance and justice go hand in hand. We see that justice is now very seldom enforced by the civil magistrate, and anarchy is taking over the streets.

He uses **Divine Providence**.

He uses **natural events**, such as rain, floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, fire, to execute his vengeance. In Job 38, God told Job that he controls the frost, snow, hail, rain and sends the lightnings wheresoever he will.

The raging brush fire in Australia has devastated an area almost the size of Ireland. Fire and smoke cover an area the size of Europe, and the smoke is covering the sky in New Zealand, 1600 miles away. Almost 2000 homes have burned. The fires are so intense that they produce thunderstorm, fire tornadoes and 60 MPH winds. 4000 people have been displaced, 6 dead, and so far, 14 million acers and half-a-billion animals have been destroyed. There is no end in sight.

God uses **foreign invaders**. We are in the midst of a foreign invasion from the south.

God uses **wicked rulers** as a means of vengeance. Obama paid for multitudes of Muslims to come to the US. Enough they now have two representatives in congress, and several cities are now under Muslim control. The Muslims are so strong in some areas that they have “police” patrols in their communities to enforce sharia law.

His vengeance sends **judicial blindness**. That is, he blinds men to reality so that they will destroy themselves.

His vengeance sends **false teachers and spiritual leaders**. They give false directions and false hope to the wicked, and they contentedly march toward their self-chosen destruction.

Though his people cannot seek self-vengeance, he tells us what to do in

*Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; 2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, **Avenge me of mine adversary.** 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

The context is prayer in response to the lack of proper vengeance and justice by the judge who had no interest in justice for the individual widow. Rightful vengeance and justice were granted to the widow only because she continually cried out for righteous vengeance against her personal adversary. Because the widow continued in her plea and pestered him endlessly, he finally granted her justice.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

Now, this is a hard saying, but it is in accordance to the words of our Lord:

The elect individual cannot even think about nor imagine personal vengeance, or getting even with an adversary. Rather, he has been instructed to pray for God to exercise his righteous vengeance against his or her adversary, even if that adversary is a close friend or family member.

Because the we fail to pray for God's vengeance against the wicked, how much blame is on us for the prevalence of evil against us?

We are to pray for God's vengeance **against those** who seek to undermine his command-word, whether that undermining is done by the ungodly, or whether it is done from supposed "Christian" preachers and teachers who proclaim man's imaginative ideas in place of God's truth.

We should pray particularly for God's vengeance against those people, societies and states as well as individuals who are guilty of the theft of any kind. God's law requires death for man-stealing.

It is becoming common to hear of the state stealing children from families who are obeying God's command concerning children.

The vengeance of God is also proclaimed against all who are guilty of taking the name of the Lord in vain or blaspheming God:

Blaspheming is made evident in every kind of false doctrine presented in the name of the Lord.

We are told to pray for God's vengeance against modernism and unbelief as well as the toleration of all kinds of evil such as homosexuality and false modesty in the name of the Lord.

Not only do these things call for the vengeance of God against them, but people who bear the name of Christ yet do not live what they profess also are asking for the vengeance of God.

We should be praying for God's righteous vengeance against the workers of iniquity in the Church as well as in society in general.

Three times we are told that our God is a vengeful God, a God of consuming fire against wickedness.

God also declares that part of his ministry of justice, or vengeance is to separate his people from those who are ungodly. That line of separation is brought about by judgment and by the providence of God.

We daily see the false professor of Christianity and false Christian churches become more obvious for what they are. The evils that lurks in the heart of professed Christians is becoming increasingly obvious as they openly separate from the Christian faith which they profess.

As God and his justice continues to show the truth about the false "Christian churches," and institutions, the flow of true Christians out of them is increasing.

I do not have much contact with Orthodox Presbyterian churches, but the Orthodox Baptist community is growing.

As we face the world of our day, we need to rejoice that it is under God's judgment, that his ministry of vengeance is in operation today. We need to be mindful of our responsibility to be in prayer that God's justice or vengeance will be accomplished.

God makes clear that his day of vengeance and justice is about to come.

We need to be crying with the widow, *Oh Lord, avenge me of mine adversary.* **Avenge us of the adversaries of the Church.**