

**September 14, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Rom. 12:17-21** *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is Mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. (NIV)*

Because we are abiding in the LORD, we will also have the love of the LORD in our lives. Only God has the right to vengeance because He is completely righteous. On the other hand, He calls us to be full of mercy towards those who have hurt us. This is truly a test of the LORD's presence in our lives. Because He is holy, He sees sin as sin and must bring justice upon those who continue on in the sin. But because He is the One Who wields justice, He calls upon us to love those who have hurt us. We are to meet their needs in love.

This is not natural for us. We want to see them brought to their knees. We want them to pay. But instead, the LORD wants us to love them, forgive them and even go the extra mile for them. He says that in doing this, they will know that they are loved and valuable. Heaping burning coals comes from those who would share their coals so that others could start their fires. What a beautiful picture that is for us. Take what we have and give it in the name of Jesus. God hates sin, but He loves the sinner. Those without Christ are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy. They are the prize. Let's do all we can to show them they are loved.

**Dear LORD, help us to love others the way You love us. We were dead in our trespasses and sin, but You gave Jesus for us, to cover our sin. We praise You. In Jesus Name, Amen**