

Comments About Romans 12:21

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul’s writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed Romans 12:20. This article will conclude the series about this chapter by discussing Romans 12:21.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:21.

Romans 12:21—“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Not overcome by evil

Here are some verses that discuss the goal of not being overcome by evil.

There are many scriptures in the Bible that describe an evil source that influences people to sin. He is called by many names. Here are a few of his names.

- Genesis 3:1—the cunning serpent
- Matthew 4:1—the devil who tempted the Son of God
- 2 Corinthians 11:14—an angel of light
- Ephesians 2:2-3—the prince of the power of the air
- Revelation 12:9—the great dragon, serpent of old, devil, Satan
- Revelation 12:12—the devil having great wrath

History of influencing

Let’s notice some scriptures that give some examples of the devil’s involvement in negatively influencing mankind.

Genesis 3:1-5—“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ”

Job 1:11—“ ‘But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ ”

Job 2:5—“But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

John 13:27—“Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’ ”

Overcome evil with good

Here are some verses that discuss the concept of overcoming evil with good.

Matthew 5:43-48—“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Philippians 2:7-8—“But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”