

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (v3)

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, & give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless & do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare *Romans 12:9-21 (esp. vv14, 17, 18, 21)* with the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*). How well does St. Paul's teaching fit with Jesus'? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*
2. In the same way compare the Old Testament antecedents (*esp. vv16, 19, 20*). See *Deuteronomy 32:35; Proverbs 3:7, 19:1-4, 17, 22, 25:21, 22; 26:12*. Use your Bible's footnotes for additional cross-references

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Compare *Romans 12:9-21 & Matthew 21:24-28*; how does this change your understanding of "taking up your cross"? That is, if you lived (diligently) the way St. Paul describes for the sake of the Gospel, how would suffering find you (& quickly)?
4. How does *1 Cor (12:12-31) 13:1-13* fit with *Romans 12:(1-8) 9-21 (also John 13:34-35)* How does this Biblical sense of love as action, not emotion, shine new light on how you treat both strangers (say shoppers & cashiers at the grocery store) as well as people in your congregation? Make a list of 15 things to do more of & 15 things to do differently.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Consider *2 Peter 3:9* alongside vv20-21 above. It seems that St. Paul has repentance in mind. How does a congregation's life together in the genuine love described above point your neighbors toward their own Spirit-led repentance? See also *Romans 5:1-6; Hebrews 10:32-39; 1 Peter 3:13-17, esp. v16*
6. St. Paul rightly tells us not to take matters of (legal-governmental-civil) justice into our own hands (*cf. 12:18--13:8*). First, how is this idea preserved in the US Constitution's First Amendment & outlawing of bills of attainder (*Art 1:9.3*)? Second, how does this inform our responses in simpler matters, such as traffic, meanness, or gossip? See *Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:38-46, Luke 9:51-56*

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14th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Extra-Ordinary Life

09.03.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Be an Influencer

God's glory is not found in clicks, but when good overcomes evil

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good. (v21)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which God has called us.
(*Ephesians 1:17, 18*)

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