

“For we know him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’  
And again, ‘The Lord will judge his people’” (HEB. 10:30).

# VENGEANCE

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS:

All of us get outraged at times. We see someone else do something that is particularly repugnant in our eyes. Our pulse races, our blood pressure rises and we want to act. Sometimes, our rage is directed at something that is evil. Other times, we get upset just because we selflessly want something to be different than it is.

But what do we do with that anger? Well, regardless of the inspiration for it, we are to take that anger to God. If our anger is over something evil, God has promised that He will set all things right in the end. If it is selfish anger, God will forgive us of our sin. Regardless, we are never to manifest our anger in violence. As individual Christians, we are never called to try to set all things right through force. We are called to speak truth rather than coerce obedience.

We are not to try to set things right ourselves for at least two reasons. First, our outrage might be misplaced in many cases. Acting on it would then be utterly tragic. Yet even when our anger is justified, it is still not our role to set things right. God does that Himself, either temporally, through those He places into authority for the purpose of punishing evil, or eternally, in judgment on the Last Day.

The Scriptures never place vengeance into our hands as individuals. For a Christian to act this way is to arrogantly seek to remove God from His place as Judge of the living and dead. It is to act as if we have an authority that has not been given to us. We flee such actions and denounce those who take them.

God will set all things right. In fact, He already has, through His Son's death. One day, we will see it with our own eyes.

## SCRIPTURES:

### Proverbs 22:24–25

“Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.”

### Isaiah 35:4

“Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’”

### Romans 12:17–21

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

## CONVERSATION POINTS:

- What are the best ways to deal with outrage when it seems like our anger is in line with God's Word?
- What are the best ways to deal with outrage when it is revealed to be selfish?
- What types of terrible things can happen if we decide to try to set all things right in our world?
- What does Jesus' cross have to do with all of this?