

- 2- This sets up the mandate in verse 18 to live in harmony with all mankind as long as that harmony depends on us.
- 3- Verse 19 instructs us, when such evil is directed our way or disharmony is created by others, we are not to seek personal vengeance.
- 4- Instead we are to defer to the Supreme Court of Heaven which will prosecute the case from the standpoint of divine justice.
- 5- A rationale is given to support this policy. It is a quote from the Old Testament Scripture and indicates that Jesus Christ will do the punishing and do so in a way compatible with the grace plan of God.
- 6- An important emphasis was noted when we parsed the verb **GRA'PhW**, which is translated, "For it stands written." This is very important in seeing the sarcastic wit of Paul in verse 20.
- 7- The intensive perfect of **GRA'PhW** emphasizes the results of a finished product: the completed canon of the Old Testament. The passive voice says this completed canon received the action of being written and speaks of "verbal plenary inspiration," which is to say it is the expression of a divine policy. The declarative indicative tells us this is a statement of unalterable, absolute Biblical fact.
- 8- An expanded translation could read, "For it stands written as a part of divine inspiration in the Old Testament canon and can be stated as an absolute Biblical fact that 'Punishment belongs to Me. I will repay,' says the Lord."

*E-10/18B*  
*B-10/20*  
2- If we were gamblers we could place bets on what will happen to our enemies who practice evil against us or who break harmony through emotional sins or otherwise.

- 3- We know for a fact that if we maintain the honor code our adversary will not escape punishment from the justice of God.
- 4- There is a parallel passage to verse 19 which we should note here. Hebrews 10:

v 30 = For we know Him who said, "Punishment belongs to Me. I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

v 31 = It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

5- This enables us to deal with the individual from the standpoint of sophisticated Christian humor.

6- Have you ever heard a story about how someone said something critical about someone and they happened to be in earshot? Such as the employee who makes a remark about the boss. When you hear what the person said about him and are then told the boss was right behind him you don't need to hear any more. You get a knowing grin on your face. You know what's coming you just don't know the details.

7- This is what happens when anyone invades the privacy, violates the property, threatens the life or besmirches the reputation of a member of the royal family of God.

8- You know what is about to happen, you just don't know the details.

9- You don't pull on Superman's cape. You don't spit in the wind. You don't jerk the mask off the ole Lone Ranger. And you don't mess around with Slim.

10- You are fully aware that you do not need to do anything but get out of the way.

11- When the Scripture says, "Punishment belongs to Me. I will repay," we understand it as a statement of absolute Biblical fact. It will happen. We are amused by its prospect. Nevertheless we make sure we are ~~clear of any action~~ that might involve us in the action. *INNOCENT OF ANYTHING*

12- What drives home the certainty of divine action is the sophisticated sarcastic wit that follows. It begins with the conditional conjunction:

>EA'N = introduces the protasis of a third class condition. Maybe yes, maybe no. TXL: "if" We are going to see next that you are the target of someone else's hostility. That person may or may not be hungry. The singular is the noun:

>EChThRO'S = hostile. This person may be someone you know or a stranger. He may not be an enemy in the classical sense but he is hostile through arrogance, jealousy, implacability or hatred.

- 1- Because of something you have unwittingly done, your adversary implodes and polarizes in the hatred complex of sins.
- 2- He may not like it because you have worked hard and achieved a position, acquired wealth or own property. Envy and jealousy resent the fact these attributes cannot be theirs.
- 3- You may be happy in a traditional sense and this person feels your happiness is politically incorrect and therefore must be destroyed.
- 4- This explains the cultural wars raging in our country today from Bill Clinton's lust for the so-called rich taxpayer's money to the assaults on the traditional family.
- 5- Thomas Sowell has some interesting things to say about the cultural wars in his September 30 column which appears in the October 14 issue of Conservative Chronicle.

Sowell, Thomas. "Cultural Elite's Views Dominate Our Lives." Conservative Chronicle, 14 Oct. 1992, 31:

- 6- What we see here is implosion resulting in an explosion, manifest by desires to seek retribution. These take subtle forms at first such as crusader arrogance, power lust, manipulation into cliques and raising our consciousness through propaganda.
- 7- The communists send people to "indoctrination centers." We just send our kids to school.
- 8- If parents don't accept the "evolving standards" then their children are classified by credentialed psychologists as being "at risk."
- 9- Those who simply want to be left alone to raise their kids, enjoy a stable traditional family life and adhere to the absolute standards of Bible doctrine will soon be the target of intensified and increasingly hostile retaliation by what Sowell calls the "cultural elite."

- 10- A warning to all parents of children under sixteen: Matthew 10:16 = "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves."
- 11- In fact, I would like to assign you the task of reading Matthew 10:16-23. It is a prophecy for every degenerate generation in any dispensation and could well describe the Zeitgeist of the next generation of Americans if not the next decade.

**CTL v 20** = Nevertheless, if the one hostile to you . . . is hungry--the present active subjunctive of the verb:

**PEINA'W** = to be hungry

pres = Pictorial; presents a picture of event in the process of occurrence. The person hostile to you is described as being hungry.

act = the person hostile produces the action of the verb.

subj = Potential; you are asked to consider a situation in which someone who is hostile to you is hungry. This may or may not actually occur. Therefore the subjunctive mood combined with the conditional conjunction <sup>></sup>EA'N indicates this is a third class condition: maybe this will occur or maybe it will not. But if it does, feed him; the present active imperative of the verb:

**PSWMI'ZW** = feed him

pres = Aoristic; punctiliar action for an event in present time. This is not an open ended mandate. You are to do it once.

act = the believer produces the action as a matter of honor not through any system of morality.

imp = Command; the believer with the sophisticated sense of humor of royal aristocracy knows that by doing this he symbolically demonstrates no intent to avenge himself.

- 1- The Royal Family Honor Code is not a system of morality although it does not exclude morality.

- 2- Establishment Morality is for the entire human race and therefore is to be observed by the believer and unbeliever alike.
- 3- Whatever the unbeliever can do is not the Christian way of life.
- 4- The Christian way of life is what the Holy Spirit produces in the life of a believer who is positive to Bible doctrine.
- 5- The believer in spiritual adulthood functions within the environment of spiritual self-esteem.
- 6- With advanced doctrine circulating in his stream of consciousness he develops Christian Integrity.
- 7- When placed under pressure, such a believer is challenged to maintain loyalty to truth in his soul.
- 8- When he remains loyal to truth under pressure, then he manifests his Christian Integrity by being a person of honor.
- 9- Honor is loyalty to the Word of God under pressure.
- 10- In his interpersonal relationships he remains loyal to the Honor Code within the environment of spiritual self-esteem and under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- 11- Therefore, the offended believer knows from doctrine that he has no jurisdiction over his adversary.
- 12- He is aware of divine policy not to fight evil with evil.
- 13- He understands that he is to maintain harmony with all mankind as long as it depends on him.
- 14- When his adversary breaks the harmony he knows that he is not permitted to avenge himself.
- 15- Instead he is to defer to the prosecution of the justice of God.
- 16- He is confident that in so doing Jesus Christ is honor bound to punish his antagonist because of the immutable principles found in the Word of God.

*E-10/20*  
*B-10/22*