

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 12:14, **“Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not.”**

Many of the verses in chapter 12 of the book of Romans deal with instructions from the Apostle Paul on how they were to live their lives and how to treat others, even those who were not saints. One of the hardest things for any of us to do is to pray for our enemies. Notice what the Lord said in Luke 6:28, **“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.”** Oh, Goodness! We must all admit how difficult this is if we are in the flesh. Only by the aid of God’s spiritual presence can we pray for those who speak or do harmful actions against us. The rendering in Matthew 5:44 goes even further, **“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;...”** Here we find instruction to not only **“do good to them”** but to also **“Love”** them. Rightly dividing the Word of God, this **“Love”** is not to be thought of as the same way we love our companion, our children, or our love for God. But rather this **“Love”** means to not seek their harm, not wish bad things upon them, or attempt revenge or retaliation of any kind. It is always better to leave such things to God (not easy for us to do though). He can and will fight your battles for you. Just a few verses further down in Romans 12 Paul states, **“Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.”**

Notice again the usage of “bless” two times in Romans 12:14. Why? Would not the first “Bless them” have been enough? The inspired Word of God never words any thing without a reason. To “bless” someone is to do the same as is spoken of in Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:28, which also includes giving food and drink to them as shown in Romans 12:20. Look how Paul finishes chapter 12 in verse 21, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Maybe it would be good for us to do as one song says, *“Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.”* **Think About It!**

