

## Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 12:19, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

Paul breaks from his usual beginnings of admonition found in chapter 12 of Romans by saying “Dearly beloved” before he mentions anything else. Now that he has their attention, Paul lays forth an important “proverb like” sentence on not taking revenge on others for wrongs they have done unto you. The first point is to “avenge not yourselves”. It is our fleshly nature to want and seek revenge on those who “despitefully use” us. In Matthew 5:44, the Lord instructs us to “pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;...” Luke adds the words “Bless them that curse you” in Luke 6:28. We all know how hard this is for any of us to do, so, Paul began this admonition by reminding them that he loved them “Dearly”.

Notice now the next part of this statement which says “rather give place unto wrath:...” Don’t think for a moment that this means the Lord would be pleased for you to discharge wrath upon the wrongdoers when Paul had just said we were not to avenge ourselves. The answer is found in the ending of this sentence - “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” The Apostle is telling us that by not avenging ourselves, that it gives place for the wrath of God to come upon the wrongdoers as He (God) executes judgment (vengeance) upon them. Speaking of the Lord, Moses said, “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deuteronomy 32:4). You see, we would only mess it up! God knows what, where and when it is best to issue His wrath upon the wicked. It is far better that ye “avenge not yourselves”. Think About It!