

# WRITE IT DOWN!

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## ***The Gospel & Your Enemies***

*The Gospel for Real Life*

Romans 12:14-21

Sunday, October 12, 2008

# LISTEN UP!

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*How does the Gospel impact how we deal with conflict in our relationships with everyone from friends to enemies?*

### **I. WHO these astounding words are for . . .**

- For “not yet believers with objections”
- For “beginning-to-think believers”
- For “believers in relationships”

### **II. WHY these astounding words are here . . .**

- Against the backdrop of 11 chapters of Gospel explanation
- An urging rooted in the mercies of God toward us (Rom. 12:1)
- Because the Gospel is all about the overcoming of evil by good

### **III. WHAT these astounding words tell us to do . . .**

1. Bless those who persecute you (12:14)
2. See and feel through eyes of the other (12:15)
3. Kill your pride (12:16)
4. Never pay back evil (12:17)
5. Keep striving for peace with all men (12:18)
6. Trust God and His sure justice (12:19)
7. Overcome evil with good (12:20-21)

### **IV. HOW we get started . . .**

1. Wanting to get started
2. Looking to the Lord of the Cross for help
3. Taking action by faith

# THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Romans 12 from top to bottom. Where does this chapter fall in this letter to the Romans? What has been going on in the first 11 chapters? (Have you ever read the book of Romans in one sitting?)
2. How do the astounding instructions in 12:14-21 relate to Romans 12:1? How do they relate to Romans 12:2?
3. When you look at the 7 things we're told to do (in the outline) in these verses, how do you see Christ doing each of these and more for us at the cross?
4. In 12:20, what is the purpose of "heaping burning coals" on the head of an enemy? Is the purpose to burn them?
5. Does this text say there is ever a time when we are free to stop striving for reconciliation and peace in our personal relationships?

# WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week's text/message?
2. Why is it that our hearts look for the loopholes and the exceptions to the rules when we encounter an astounding text like this one?
3. What are the ways, apart from this text, that we normally and naturally respond to our enemies and those with whom we experience conflict?
4. Share an experience where you or someone else pursued peace, and reconciliation happened? Share an experience where you or someone else pursued peace, and reconciliation still has not happened?
5. When can we overlook a wrong (a sin) done to us? In larger matters, how do we not compromise on sin, but still actively pursue the sinner?
6. Which of the 7 outlined actions is most challenging for you? What is one relationship where you need to take action? What will that action be?