**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’ Message #81 – ‘A New Determination’**

**February 25th, 2018**

**Text: Rom. 12:17-21**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* **Theme: God’s Plan to Save His People**

**5. Section #5 – God’s Righteousness in Service (Chap.12-16)**

* + **Illus. Jesus in the wilderness, fleshy shortcuts; how was this possible?**
  + **The world says, *‘Don’t get mad – get even!’***
  + **Jesus says, *‘Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you’* (Lk.6:27)**
  + **Q. *So how does my transformed will wield the mercy of God?***
  + **Evidences of a Transformed Will (12:17-21)**

**A transformed will (grace demonstrated):**

1. **Pursues Peace, *‘…do what is honorable…live peaceably with all…’* (17,18)** 
   1. **The wrong response to being wronged? Paying back with wrong…**
   * **Paul says this in 3 slightly different ways in this text (17,19,21)**
   * **Illus. example of indifference; hurtful speech**
   * **c/f Eph. 4:29, *‘Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth…’***
   1. **Determining in advance how you will respond…’peace’ (17b; 18)**
   * **Giving thought to *‘honorable things’* (17b)**
   * **c/f Phil. 4:8, *‘Whatever is honorable…think about these things’***
   * **The transformed will doesn’t desire offense, it desires to ‘win over’**
   * ***‘In the sight of all…’ –* Paul isn’t saying determine what you do by public opinion**
   1. **Making peace possible…Your Aim (18)**
   * **‘Bending backwards’ for peace (‘*so far as it depends on you’*)**

* **Apply: Giving ourselves a pass…blaming others…*‘agreeing to disagree…agreeably…’* - Briscoe** 
  + **What the Gospel does? It enables peace…with God…with others**

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1. **Practices Good, *‘…do not avenge yourselves…you will heap burning coals on his head’* (19,20)** 
   1. **Leaving Vengeance for God (19)**
   * **What he is not saying**
   * **Leaving your case in God hands…God judges…you bless, *‘…if hungry, feed…if thirsty, give…?* Why? How much does the Gospel matter?**
   1. **Heaping Coals? (20)**
   * **Back to v.14, *‘Bless and do not curse them…’***
   * **T. Schreiner’s view c/f Ps. 140:10**
   * **Summary: Our desire is their repentance but if they don’t…the love we show increases the weight of wrath at the judgment.**
2. **Prevails over Evil, *‘…overcome…’* (21)** 
   1. **Looking to Jesus**
   * **He overcame…How? He didn’t persuade people…He died for them!**
   * **Our legal status change guarantees our moral transformation**

* **Summary: We will not ‘overcome’ without the Overcomer’s help!** 
  1. **So…Don’t be overcome by evil…but overcome evil with good’ (21)**
  + **Lit. Don’t allow your enemies persecution ‘well up’ hostility inside you so that you lash out with retaliation…So that then you respond the same way…**
  + **Illus. She hit me first!**
  + **Evil will *‘overcome’* you when you respond with evil eg. Victims/blaming**
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