

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

44 – Paybacks

Time for
PAY-BACKS!!

...**repay** anyone
evil for evil.
Romans 12:17a (NIV)



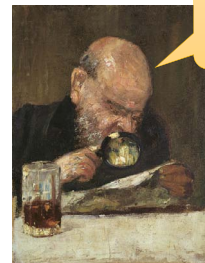
**DON'T YOU DARE
SKIP THE FIRST TWO
WORDS OF THIS VERSE!!**

DO NOT

repay anyone evil
for evil.

Romans 12:17a (NIV)

THERE ARE MANY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES
THAT MENTION PAYING AND PAYBACKS ...

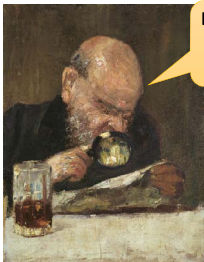


I'M
FINDING
THEM!

CHECKING
EVERY
VERSE IN
THE BIBLE!

There are many
ways to pay ...

But **EVIL** is **NEVER**
given as an option.



NOWHERE
TO BE
FOUND!

VERSES THAT
TELL US TO PAY
BACK WITH
EVIL:

[NONE]

I PREFER
THIS!



DO NOT
PAY BACK
WITH EVIL

IF...


you think "evil" is good
and "good" is evil ...

THEN...

you might disagree.

★ But on the Day of Judgment,
YOUR definitions don't count. ★

I PREFER THIS!



This is what God says, when you refuse to accept his definitions of "good" and "evil":

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Isaiah 5:20 (NIV)

- "WOE" means you have something horrible to look forward to.

IF YOU ARE NOT PLEASED WITH THE WAY GOD DEFINES "GOOD VS. EVIL" ...

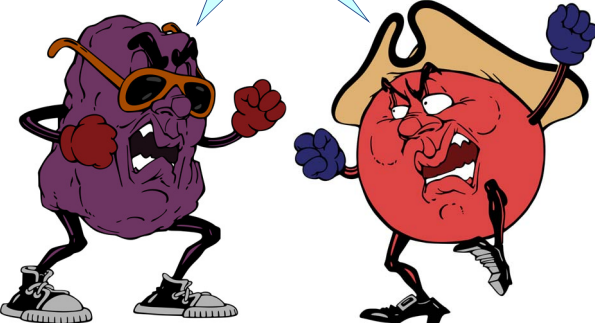
The WISE PERSON'S response ...

- Take time to find out why he says it that way.
- Then let Scripture judge YOU – and change YOUR values and views.

The FOOL'S response ...

- Stand in judgment over Scripture, condemning and rejecting what it says.
- Refuse to change your values and views.

IF I CAN'T PAY BACK WITH MY FIST, THEN HOW SHOULD I PAY BACK?



PAY BACK WITH...



DO WHAT IS RIGHT!!

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right * in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

This is a general principle ...


- Applicable to all of life.

With a specific application ...

- Answering our "payback" question.

* { THIS WORD "RIGHT" CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED AS "GOOD." }

"I call it 'good,' So it is good."



It's GOOD only if GOD defines it as "GOOD"!!



KEY ISSUE:
EVIL AND GOOD ARE DEFINED BY GOD, NOT US.

Until we are willing to submit to God and the way he defines these concepts,

I THINK I'M DOING GOOD!!

NO, YOU'RE DOING EVIL!

we will be ready to "pay back" with evil... *and perhaps not even realize it.*

GENUINE "GOOD" GOES AGAINST HUMAN NATURE

No one is good except God alone.
Mark 10:18b (NASB)

There is none who does good,
There is not even one.
Romans 3:12b (NASB)

When people do good...

- It is because God permits them to act contrary to their sinful human nature.

Even though God allows people to do GOOD,
GENUINE "GOOD" IS NOT A NATURAL PART OF ONE'S SINFUL HUMAN NATURE

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.
Romans 7:18, 21 (NIV)

THE WORLD IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISTORTED VIEWS OF GOOD AND EVIL.

✓ Terrorists...
THINK IT'S GOOD
IF YOU DON'T DO THINGS MY WAY, I'LL KILL YOU!

✓ Abortionists...
THINK IT'S GOOD
LET'S JUST CALL THAT CHILD "EXCESS TISSUE"!

✓ Governments...
THINK IT'S GOOD
IF WE TURN IT INTO A LAW, IT WILL BECOME A "RIGHT"!

✓ Churches...
THINK IT'S GOOD
LET'S NOT SPEAK UP AGAINST SIN... SOMEONE MIGHT GET OFFENDED!

✓ Parents...
THINK IT'S GOOD
ALWAYS LET THE CHILD HAVE WHAT HE WANTS!
NEVER LET THE CHILD HAVE WHAT HE WANTS!

**GENUINE "GOOD" DOES NOT ALWAYS
INCLUDE THE PLEASANT THINGS WE PREFER!**

**BUT IT WILL REFLECT (AND PROMOTE)
THE HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

... God disciplines us for our good, that we
may share in his **holiness**.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but
painful. Later on, however, it produces a
harvest of **righteousness** and peace for
those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:10b-11 (NIV)

BACK TO THE WORD

"PAY-BACK"

Do not repay
anyone evil
for evil.

Romans 12:17a (NIV)



Do not "REPAY"...

The word translated as "repay"...

- Can also be translated as: pay, give, pay back, render (to someone), etc.
- Emphasis: Giving them what they deserve; paying them what they are owed.

NEVER are we to pay back with EVIL!

- Even when God instructs an authority to punish evil...
the punishment is NOT to be done in an evil way!
- **NO EXCEPTIONS!** (Not for government, nor parent, nor church, etc.)

- **DO NOT!**
- **NOT AN OPTION!**
- **NEVER!**
- **NO!**
- **STOP!**
- **END IT!**
- **IT'S A "NO-NO"!**
- **PROHIBITED ACTION!**
- **OFF LIMITS!**
- **"THOU SHALT NOT!"**
- **OUT OF BOUNDS!**

BUT I THINK YOU DESERVE TO
BE PUNCHED IN THE FACE!

I OWE IT TO YOU!

THAT'S THE REASON
FOR THE PHRASE
"DO NOT"!



WELL THEN, I JUST WON'T
"PAY BACK" WITH ANYTHING!!

>> This also is sin! <<

There are **MANY** things that God ...

- TELLS us we owe to others...
- COMMANDS us to pay/give to others...

**WHEN WE REFUSE TO OBEY GOD'S
COMMAND TO PAY/GIVE... WE ARE LIVING
IN SIN AND REBELLION AGAINST GOD.**

Your Mission...

**We have an obligation
to never do EVIL,
and an obligation
to always do GOOD.**

Let this fact control the way you "pay back"!

It's ALWAYS PAY-BACK TIME!

Pay **everyone** whatever you owe them—taxes to whom taxes are due, tolls to whom tolls are due, fear to whom fear is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Do not owe anyone anything—**except** to love one another. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the Law.

Romans 13:7-8 (ISV)

THESE YOU
WILL OWE
SOMETIMES.

THIS YOU
WILL OWE
ALL THE TIME.

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."
Romans 12:17**



PAYING, REPAYING, GIVING WHAT YOU OWE, ETC.

The New Testament uses this concept to describe a variety of ways of giving (or paying) someone what they deserve or are owed. Examples include paying what is owed for a purchase or a debt, giving a response (answer) to someone, giving to someone the necessary consequences for his actions, etc.

WHAT do you OWE GOD?

You can *never* pay him back for *all* he's done for you.
But if you belong to him, you will offer him all that you have.

GOD AND US:

- God will reward the righteous for all they have done - Matthew 6:4, 6, 18; 2 Timothy 4:8.
- God will pay back *all* people for all they have done - Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:6; 2 Timothy 4:14 and Revelation 18:6 (examples); 1 Peter 4:5; Revelation 22:12.
- We are to give God what we owe him - Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25; Matthew 5:33 (keeping our promises; in this passage, Jesus was opposing a way the people had distorted the concept of making promises).

>> OUR INABILITY TO REPAY GOD FOR SALVATION <<

- Our inability to repay God for salvation is illustrated in parables... and it should influence our attitude toward both God and people - Matthew 18:21-35 (a focus on forgiveness) ; Luke 7:40-47 (forgiveness and love).
- Our obligation to live for God is also illustrated in parables... and it also should influence our attitude toward both God and people - Matthew 21:40-41, 43.

OTHER PEOPLE AND US:

- Some things we must ALWAYS pay/repay: Anything that we owe - Romans 13:7-8; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25.
- Some things we must NEVER pay/repay: Anything that is evil - Romans 12:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9.

OTHER TYPES OF GIVING WHAT IS OWED:

- People will give God a response (account or answer) for what they have said and done (whether good or bad) - Matthew 12:36; 1 Peter 4:5; Hebrews 13:17.
- Giving people an explanation of the good news about Jesus - Acts 4:33 (an example of it being done).
- Paying people back for money wrongly taken - Luke 19:8.
- Various family obligations - things owed to family members: To one's spouse - 1 Corinthians 7:3; to parents - 1 Timothy 5:4.
- God's discipline: Though unpleasant, its "payback" is a wonderful "harvest"! - Hebrews 12:11.
- (not included here) Several verses that mention giving something to someone, buying and selling things, etc.