

Our Response to an Evil and Hostile World.
Practical Christianity 101 pt. 5
Romans 12:13-14

Romans 12:9–21 (NKJV)

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”*

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction

On May 10th, 1940, Nazi Germany forces invaded the Netherlands overtaking the country in five days.

The bombing runs dropped 97 tons of explosives on the city of Rotterdam forcing the Dutch to surrender. During the subsequent occupation, over 100,000 Dutch Jews would be rounded up and taken to concentration camps.

In the face of these horrors, an elderly father and his two daughters would risk everything to protect lives these Jewish people. Only one of the 3 who risk it all would survive, but 800 Jews and even some Germans would live because of their bravery.

You are probably aware the amazing story of Corrie Ten Boom. She was youngest of 4 children born in the Netherlands in 1892 to a dedicated christian father and mother. Her father was well known for his upstanding moral character, and commitment to Christ and the Word of God. He would read every day from the Bible to the family with prayer, sharing various translations of the Bible, in French, German and even Hebrew. The Word of God was a central part of their life.

Corrie was raised in a typical tall and narrow Dutch house. The bottom floor was dedicated to the watch repair business and the upper floors to living space. It served them well when it was just the parents and 4 children, but when some elderly aunts moved in, they needed extra space, so they bought the adjacent home. However, the 2 homes were built at different times and the floors were not on the same level and had a space between them, so they eventually enclosed the space between the two homes and built a spiral staircase to access the additional space. The original house was built in the 1600s with three floors and the additional house was built in the 1400s with only two floors. The floors between the houses did not match with this became an important part of the ability of the Ten Booms to hide the Jews.

Corrie's bedroom was the additional room that was added on the top of the older 2 story home. Because it was the room furthest away from the entryway, and up the stairs, became the perfect place to create the hiding place.

Corrie came to a pivotal point in her life whenever she was rejected by what she believed to be the love of her life, the man that she thought she would one day marry showed up at her door with his fiancé.

She said

“it was as if my heart was broken that moment. Right after they had gone. I went straight to my bedroom. and said, "Lord Jesus, I belong to you lock, stock, and barrel, I surrender this part of my being that is wounded.”

In a speech she gave much later, she recounted,

"I've had a very happy life, and Jesus has taken Care so for me that I have never become a frustrated old spinster"... “but I had to surrender my ‘if only’ ”

Corrie never looked back and believed that God had a greater purpose.

She dedicated herself along with her sister Betsy to take care of their elderly live in aunts until their deaths and then worked with young people leading bible studies and taking care of a club of the mentally handicapped teaching them the Bible.

The family was very mission minded and willing to help those in need, and after the passing of the aunts and the soon after the death of their mother, they wanted to open the house for those in need.

They would bring into their home the children of Indonesian missionaries and help care for them and teach them.

It was a wonderful time until the May 10th, 1940, when Germany invaded. Their hopes of escaping the horror of war was over. Within days everything changed.

The Nazis confiscated all the radios in the country. They didn't want anyone knowing what was going on. But the Ten Booms managed to hold on to one and heard the speeches of Hitler. Corrie would remember the speeches, starting off in a normal voice only to rise higher and higher to the voice of a demon.

At first the persecution of the Jewish people wasn't noticed, but more and more they noticed that their Jewish friends were being picked out. They were required to wear the star of David. Eventually more of the Jewish families were being attacked, their homes raided and the businesses destroyed.

Corrie and her family, desiring to help got a some direction from God when a man with an orphan Jewish baby showed up on their front doorstep . A local pastor was unwilling to take the risk to help so they took the baby. But Corrie's Father, along with

Corrie and her sister were willing to take the risk and took the baby. They eventually heard that there were a 100 babies in Amsterdam that were Jewish would be killed and one of the boys they were keeping said we will help and go and steal all the babies.

They were willing to take in anyone, Jewish or not, who needed help escaping the Nazi war machine.

It didn't take long for word to spread in the Jewish community of help at the Ten Boom house. All ages of Jews would show up needing help to be protected from incarceration and as we know now...death.

They tried to keep it quiet as possible but were concerned that their activities where known. Its hard to take care of and feed that many people with it being known. Time came for some to be moved to different locations in secret. Codes were develop for calls to know what was needed. Signs would be used to let others know that it was safe to come to the house.

Things continued to get worse with arrest happening of some of the family and the possibility of a raid on the home grew more and more real.

So they decided that there was a great need for a Hiding Place to hide Jews in the times of inspection or raid. The room furtherest from the door and on

the top floor was chosen. It was Corrie's Room. A passage way would be created with a hidden door through a linen closet. Corrie kept a suitcase in front of it. The wall between the room and the hiding place was built into the floor and the ceiling to make it sound more solid and not hollow. The Nazi's would often bang on the walls to see if there were hollow spots to hide people.

The Nazi's would search every room and it would take longer to get to the room furthest from the doors on the top floor. Practice runs were made by the Jews to ensure they could get there within a minute. mattresses would be turned over so no heat could be felt. Dinner plates would be removed from the table to indicate only 3 occupants. Every item of a Jew would need to be removed so as not to give any evidence of them living there.

When the soldiers would come, the Jews would remain in the Hiding place for 48 hours.

Then came the fateful day when a man came to their door and said,

"Will you save my wife? She is arrested. She saved Jewish people and now she is in the police station and there is one policeman who will run the risk to

set her free if we pay him 600 guilders, but I have no money.”

Corrie said,

“That man was a betrayer”

The man’s name was Jon Vogal and he told Corrie, “I know you help people here”

The next events unfold as a Bible study is going on in the house. Corrie is upstairs not feeling very well. But then there is a knock on the door and the Betsie opens the door to be pushed back by the Nazis’. She manages to push the buzzer that tells the Jews to go to the hiding place.

The Nazis work their way to Corrie’s room to demand of her where the Jews are. She denies knowing anything and the Nazis slap her.

Corrie, with her sister Betsie and their father were carried away to prison. Their father soon died in prison and thrown into an unmarked grave.

Even in prison, through marvelous and miraculous providences and the grace of God, Corrie was protected from death many times. Through a nurse she was provided a small concealable Bible that she read as often as she could.

After 3 months in solitary confinement, she was taken to be loaded on the train. It was there where she was able to see her sister again. They boarded the train not knowing where they were going. They were taken to a factory to labor 6 days a week on radios for German aircraft. The one day they had off, they would have a worship service and sing praises.

When D day came, the Germans knew there would be movements of troops and decided to empty the prisons in the Netherlands.

Then came the real horrors. They were moved to the notorious extermination camp for women in Northern Germany. It was a training center for Female Nazis who learned how to be exceptionally cruel.

Corrie and Betsy along with the other women were made to strip naked and paraded in front of the Nazi soldiers for inspection.

Corrie recounts,

“The first time was the worst. I’ve never felt so humbled, so miserable, so cold. When I stood there, and Betsy, my sister stood beside me, I said, ‘Betsy, I cannot bear this. This is so terrible.’ and I thought I could break under the burden of that suffering. And then suddenly it was as if I saw Jesus on the cross. And the Bible says they took His

garments, He hanged their naked. And by my own suffering, I understood only a fraction of the suffering of Jesus.”

She tells of how in the camp, there was no kindness at all and that the guards where given special training in how to be cruel. The camp commander was a 28 year old woman who had receive extra lessons in how to be exceptionally cruel. The guards worked hard to make life as hard as possible.

Corrie and Betsie were put in barracks 28 which was filled with twice as many women as it was built for. The women had to share the straw filled mattresses. It was filthy and filled with fleas and lice.

Corrie later states that the fleas and lice where and extra providence of God that kept the guards out of their barracks. They would put the food at the door and leave.

Corrie was allow by God’s grace to sneak a Bible into the Barracks and because the gaurds stayed away form the place filled with lice, Corrie and her sister had audience of 700 women to read and share the bible with. And even though the Bible was forbidden. And that Barrack, they were able to have Bible studies twice a day.

The brutality of the camps became more obvious as the crematoriums were started up and women were periodically taken away with hopes of a shower, only to find out that it wasn't a shower of water but rather a deadly gas.

Corrie believed she could be taken at any moment.

Corrie's sister was beaten savagely because she could not keep up due to her own sicknesses. Her sickness increased and she slowly starved to death.

This was devastating to Corrie. She thought they would always be together.

Later at a roll call, her number was called.

She gave her Bible to a fellow prisoner, believing that she would not return. She believes she will be headed to the gas chamber, and eventually the crematorium. But to her surprise, she was taken to a building or she was given some clothes and her release papers.

Amazingly, the next week after her release, all the women of her age were put to death. She called a clerical error by Man, but a miracle by God..

Lesson

Romans 12:9–14 (NKJV)

Behave Like a Christian

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

There is nothing like being genuinely loved. Loved by someone who knows you and knows you well. Loved regardless of your faults, failures and sins.

Most of the time we find this kind of love within a family or with very close friends.

This is the kind of love we find in

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NKJV)

⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind;⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for *“love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV)

¹² Hatred stirs up strife,
But love covers all sins.

But nothing is like being genuinely hated too. No one loves to be hated. We are not looking at our daily schedule and saying, “Ok, what can I do today to increase the hatred toward me”...

In fact we often go out of our way to ensure that we are not hated.

We often will not say anything in an heated conversation or debate for fear of being hated.

We will avoid confrontation for fear of being hated.

We will tolerate difficult relationships for fear of being hated.

We will not clarify our position on a subject for fear of hatred.

We will tolerate sin in others and our own lives for fear of being hated.

We will not speak the gospel for fear of being hated.

We will deny our relationship with Christ for fear of what people may say and the hatred it might bring.

We can easily slip into a fear of man for the hatred he can bring and forget the needed fear that we should have of God.

The list can go on and on.

No one is lining up to be hated. No one!

In fact, I could say and you would probably agree,

“I love being loved, and I hate being hated”

But the reality is that the more wretched and evil this culture becomes and the more hostile it becomes to the absolutes of morality found in Christianity and the Lordship of Christ over men and women, the more hatred is brewing for all of us.

John 15:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you....

There is a reason for the hatred and a reason for the persecution.

John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ ...the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

1 John 3:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.

¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

John 7:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The world hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

If Jesus had just come born of a virgin, doing good and creating food, healing disease and raising the dead.... all would have been fine. The world would have loved him.

In fact, this is the Jesus that is often presented to the World.

This is the reason the Jesus of the TV series “The Chosen” is so popular among believers and unbelievers alike. The Jesus of “The Chosen” is an edited Jesus, not the Jesus of the Bible, not the God of the Bible.

The Jesus the world loves is the Jesus of the false teachers who say he loves you regardless of your unrepentant sin, that this Jesus would never condemn you but only forgive you. This is the Jesus who heals and helps you with your bad job, low income, and bad relationships and love of self.

But as you know, this is not the Jesus of the Bible. This is not God, this is an idol created by man to appease his evil ways.

But as the days grow darker and more evil. The contrast between darkness and light will become that much more obvious.

There were a number of decades that we had a semi-moral culture. One that even with its moral compromises still had some shock value to sin.

In those days, it was like having a candle lit in the late afternoon as the sun slipped behind the trees. It was not completely dark and you could see the candle was lit but it was not as bright. But this is gone. It is now dark. The sun is gone and the moon is not giving her light and your candle is lit and it is now the brightest light in there room. The little light you have in the midst of a universe of darkness stands out. Which, with it you and walk about in the darkness. You can avoid the areas that would cause you to trip and fall. You can see where you are going and where you have been. While other grope in the the darkness and love it so, you have a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. But with your light, you expose what is in the darkness, that many who love the darkness, don't want revealed.

This darkness is real. It is thick and you can feel it. We did not get here over night. This darkness came over decades of the clouds increasing and obscuring the sun's light and then as the day wore on, the sun slipped behind the horizon and the light disappeared.

A number of things have contributed to this.

1. The natural bent of man to slide deeper into sin.

Romans 1

2. The increasing exposure of our culture to evil and sin through TV and Movies.
3. The desensitizing of the conscious by constant exposure to evil via media and social media.
4. The political, cultural and societal degeneration of moral absolutes.
5. The dissolution and destruction and redefinition of the family from the God ordained Husband, Wife and children to any aberrant variant form imaginable and the abandonment of Biblical discipline for children.
6. The adoption of government, secular schools to train our children.
7. The de-doctrinization and demise of the pulpit ministries of the local churches.

8. The systematic remove of God and the Bible from every area of Public and Private life.

9. The doctrinal and practical compromise on moral, ethical and Biblical teachings of the church.

Male and Female

Complementarianism vs Egalitarianism

Acceptance of LGBT agenda

A redefining of the position and role of pastor in local church and the redefining the church altogether

10. The Smart phone and internet.

If you have ever flown in a plane at night, it is a wonder to behold. On clear night, the plane is flying in the midst of the darkness but if you look down out of the window you see these areas periodically of lights. They are small clumps of lights that are bright in some areas but fade of in to spotty areas of lights.

These are the cities and towns that that you are flying over. It is an incredible sight to see.

That is what the churches are now. The true church is the areas of light here and there in the scattered in the midst of a very dark land.

And we stand out. We are very noticeable, very easy to see. For those who love light it is a good thing but for those who love the darkness it is not.

And it is going to get increasingly difficult to hide as a Christian. For now, you can pretty much keep your mouth closed and things will be ok for you. But those days are coming to a close.

The stark divide over good and evil, light and darkness, morality and perversion is making it very clear who are followers of Christ.

Soon there will be no Hiding Place.

Things are being put in place right now that will allow of the discrimination against Christians that will single you out as a follower of Jesus Christ or even as one who is unwilling to compromise on a moral absolute.

With the advent to the World Wide Web, or internet, and the increasing push of the digital dollar and the consistent push toward globalization.

We are just one major event from total Tyranny, whether it is a world conflict, Economic Collapse, or a planned or unplanned health crisis or a hundred other events that are unforeseen that will push this world over the cliff into totalitarian control and the elimination of privacy.

Cash is already on its way out and the digital currency is on its way in. We are rapidly getting used to the convenience of digital money.

The governments will have complete transparency of whatever you do with your money. There will be no hiding place.

It takes very little imagination to see what governments or people hostile to christianity can do with that kind of technology and control.

Those who may try to hide will no longer be able to because all will know what you support or not support by your money.

You support a Christian organization or church...
noted

You don't support the current evil agenda of the government ...noted.

You purchase bibles or christian literature or books
...noted.

You spent money to build a church or orphanage linked to Christianity noted.

You purchase christian music online...noted.

You don't give to certain political cause because of a moral absolute you hold to.....noted

Revelation 13:5–10 (NKJV)

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He was granted *power* tocause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He

causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Brothers and sisters,

What every your view is of the millennium, the Antichrist, the tribulation, the Rapture and the Second Coming.

There can be no denying that we are heading toward a one world economic control of all of humanity with digital currency.

If you aren't even a Christian you can see this. In fact it is by far the non-christians, atheist and other world leaders that are promoting this.

It is not a matter of if we are headed there, it is just a matter of when will we arrive.

The reality of a world leader having enough control to determine where you can buy or sell is not fantasy, not speculation but merely an observation of current technological abilities and desires of world leaders. All we need is a man evil enough and event large enough to bring it about.

This will catapult the persecution and isolation of Christians more than any event in human history. We are seeing the seeds of this planted now.

Jesus started warning of this early on with his initial disciples predicting what they would endure...

Matthew 10:17–22 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

²¹ “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

²² And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Later he expands it.

Matthew 24:9–12 (NKJV)

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My

name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

[This is not new.](#)

In fact, Jesus began his first sermon with this and an indicator of who it is that makes up the kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

So since this is a reality for most Christians in the world and soon will be on your doorstep, we need to prepare ourselves of how to respond to this.

Paul says

Romans 12:14

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil....

Romans 12:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves,
²⁰...“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink...”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

To be able to do any of this. There is a **MUST** to this this. A non-negotiable, an essential list of ingredients that must be present to enable you to persevere through this and to conquer the temptation the flesh to respond to persecution in an ungodly unbiblical fleshly manner.

It is natural for our fallen humanity to want to return evil for evil and to curse instead of bless someone who harms us or our family.

It is not natural but supernatural to respond as Christ did and as Paul commands us to in this passage.

So what is the

non-negotiable, an essential list of ingredients that must be present to enable you to persevere through this?

Romans 12:1–3 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly,

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

not avenging yourselves, but *rather* giving place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord

With all of this in place, now...

*v. 14 Bless those who persecute
you, bless and do not curse.*

What does Paul mean

Bless P. A, IMP.

εὐλογέω *eulogéō*; contracted *eulogō*, imperf. *ēulógoun*, fut. *eulogésō*, aor. *ēulógēs*, from *eú* (2095), good, well, and *lógos* (3056), word. To bless, speak well of

(II) Of men toward men and things, to bless, speak well of with praise and thanksgiving, to invoke God’s blessing upon, which is God’s action in their lives or God’s intervention to accomplish His will.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

We use the word eulogy in the setting of funeral. To speak well of the person who has died. This does not mean to speak well of them after you have killed them or when they are dead.

You are to speak well of and bless

Romans 12:14 (NA28)

14 εὐλογεῖτε τοὺς διώκοντας °[ὕμᾶς],
the ones (plural) persecuting (P.A.Part)

persecuting

διώκω *diōkō*; fut. *diōxō*, from *díō* (n.f.), to pursue, prosecute, persecute, but also to pursue in a good sense. To prosecute, persecute, pursue with repeated acts of enmity (Matt. 5:10–12, 44; 10:23; 23:34; Luke 21:12; John 5:16; 15:20; Acts 7:52; 9:4, 5; 22:4, 7, 8; 26:11, 14, 15; Rom. 12:14; 1 Cor. 15:9; 2 Cor. 4:9; Gal. 1:13, 23; 4:29; 5:11; 6:12; Phil. 3:6; 2 Tim. 3:12; Rev. 12:13). To follow after (Luke 17:23). To follow or press hard after, to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain, to go after with the desire of obtaining

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

v. 14 Bless those who persecute
you, bless and do not curse.

καταράομαι *kataráomai*;

Pres mid/pass Imperative to cause harm to come.

contracted *katarṓmai*, fut. *katarásomai*, mid. deponent from *aráomai* (n.f.), to wish something to happen. To wish anyone evil or ruin, to curse, to give one over to ruin

Syn.: *anathematízō* (332), to declare *anáthema* (331), accursed, devoted to destruction, to curse; *katanathematízō* (2653), to utter curses against; *kakologéō* (2551), to speak evil; *katalaléō* (2635), to speak against.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Luke 6:28–36 (NKJV)

²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. ³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Beyond what we have already learned in Romans 12 that is essential to having this kind of Response, some other foundational pillars will be needed.

1 An understanding and apprehension of the Sovereignty and Providence of God.

As we learned last week. Nothing can come into your life apart from the plan and purpose of God.

2. An expectation of persecution because it is decreed and the world is evil.

3. The need for the purification of the church

4. The Practice of Prayer and dependence on God.

5. The godly pressure to practice forgiveness and biblical love of our enemies

Conclusion

After Corrie's release from the Nazi death camps she had another person she had to deal with. It was the pressing bitterness and lack of forgiveness. She found herself struggling with forgiving the man who betrayed her and caused the death of so many of her Dutch friends and Jews.

When she got word that the man had been arrested and was going to be put to death she wrote him a letter. Which stated, "your betrayal has ment the death of my old father was 84 years old when they brought him in to prison after 10 days he died. My sister, who died after 10 months of terrible suffering. My brother, he came out alive but a sick man and died through that sickness and his son never came back. I myself have suffered terribly through, in 3 different prisons but I have forgiven you.

And that is because Jesus is in my heart. I sent that man the New Testament and underlined the way of salvation. And that man wrote me,

“that you could forgive men is such a great miracle that I have said, Jesus, when you give such a love in the heart of your followers there is hope for me.”

Corrie later obtained large house where she took in the Dutch who had collaborated with the Germans. She did this at much consternation of the people that anyone would help them.

Corries helped them by the gospel to deal with the severe mistakes and sins they had committed.

She also was given a concentration camp in Germany to turn into a help for the families living

there. She stayed there for some time and ministered the gospel.

Corrie would do what her sister said they must do.

To go throughout the world and tell them what happened here and that “the love of God is stronger than the deepest darkness.”

In the late 1940s a few years after the war, Corrie was speaking in a church among the people who had gathered there was a man in back who would not look into her eyes, but then looking at him, she recognized him as one of the guards at the women’s camp who had been particularly cruel to her sister Bestie. He came forward and said, I am not sure if you remember me, but I was a guard at the camp but since that time, a miracle has happened, I became a Christian and I have ask God to give me the opportunity to ask forgiveness from one of my former victims and then he held out his hand....

saying ma’am, will you forgive me.

This was impossible in her words in her own power, but she did a quick turning to Jesus saying LORD help.

She said,

“ There was hatred and bitterness in my heart. I remembered how my dying sister had suffered through the cruelties of that man. But I know from the Bible that hatred means murder in God’s eyes. And I said, ‘O Father, forgive me, in Jesus name, my hatred!’” and the Lord took it away. And I said, “Thank you Lord Jesus that You have brought into my heart God’s love through the Holy Spirit. Thank you Father that Your love in me is victorious over my hatred.”

And that moment my hatred disappeared and I said. Brother, give me your hand, I have forgiven you all.”

Underlying the whole life of Corrie Ten Boom, was the

Psalm 31:15 (NKJV)

**15 My times *are* in Your hand;
Deliver me from the hand of my
enemies,
And from those who persecute me.**

This was the view of the Dutch Reformed and The Healthy view of Calvinism of God’s

Sovereignty in the midst of Persecution
and suffering.

“Life is but a Weaving” (The Tapestry Poem) by
Corrie ten Boom

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Oft' times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.

Corrie ten Boom