

PAYBACK
1 Thessalonians 5:15

Oakridge Community Church
Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:11
2. 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:1: 5:15; 5:5b-6

Payback
1 Thessalonians 5:15

I. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID RETALIATION AGAINST ANYONE

- A. The nature of this responsibility
- B. The comprehensiveness of this responsibility
- C. The reasons for this responsibility
 1. Vengeance belongs to the Lord
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:6
 - b. Romans 12:19 cf. Deuteronomy 32:34-35
 2. Christ has given us the example to follow – 1 Peter 2:20-23
 - a. The example of not retaliating
 - b. The example of trusting the Father instead

II. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PURSUE GOOD FOR EVERYONE

- A. What is to be pursued?
 1. Opposite of retaliation
 2. Morally and ethically pure
 3. Truly beneficial
- B. How is good to be pursued? – Genesis 14:15; Matthew 5:11
- C. When is good to be pursued? – Galatians 6:10
- D. For whom is good to be pursued?
 1. For one another – 1 Thessalonians 5:14
 2. For everyone – Romans 12:14

1. What recent events or experiences provoked a desire to retaliate in you? How did you express that desire? How did you deal with it?
2. Why is it so important to focus on Bible truth the very moment we have been wronged? How can we train ourselves to do so?
3. When have you thought it was okay for you to retaliate? What arguments did you use to try to justify your desire and your actions? How do you view those arguments now in light of 1 Thessalonians 5:15?
4. In what ways does seeking revenge evidence a lack of trust in the Lord? How does this realization affect your perspective of retaliation?
5. Do you see your calling from the Lord as a calling to follow Jesus, to walk as He walked? How will recognizing that as your calling change the way you live? How will it affect your response when you are wronged?
6. How can you pursue good for one another within the Oakridge Community Church body? How can you pursue good for all?

Conclusion