



**Romans 1:14-21 "We Shall Overcome"**  
**Wk. 4 "Brick-by-Brick" series**  
**By Pastor Onan Coca August 11, 2024**

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**Romans 12:14-21**

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

**15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.**

**16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.**

**17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**

**18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.**

**19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."**

**20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."**

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

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**[READ THE TEXT]**

**"People of God, this is the Word of God!"**

**Congregation - "Thanks be to God!"**

**[PRAY]**

Well, Good morning! My name is Onan, and I am one of the Pastors here at Highlands Community Church, along with Pastors Jody, Bill, and Mike. I am so glad to be able to see you all here today and to invite you and those watching online to jump into God's Word with us as we conclude our little miniseries from Romans Chapter 12 that we're calling "Brick by Brick." I want to thank Pastor John MacArthur for inspiring this 4-week excursion and point out that he first preached a series like this 40 years ago<sup>1</sup>! The Lord has mightily used Pastor John's ministry, and I have no doubt it will continue to touch lives for many years to come.

So, my task today is to bring this chapter to a close, and I have to say that I think Pastors Bill and Mike had the easy job! They got to talk about our relationship with other believers and things like love, brotherly affection, putting others first,

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<sup>1</sup> [Brick by Brick sermon series](https://www.gty.org/library/topical-series-library/119/brick-by-brick) by John MacArthur

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being hospitable, and hating evil. My job is to tell you to suffer well, to bless those who hurt you, and how to interact not just with believers but with an unbelieving world that hates us! That doesn't seem fair to me, but believing our **main point** today,

**MAIN POINT:**

**Trusting God's Sovereignty, in Obedience and Humility, we will Overcome**

I, too, am Trusting God's Sovereignty, in Obedience and Humility, we will Overcome.

A few weeks ago, Pastor Mike began by telling us that the first 11 chapters of Romans are a deep theology lesson. That lesson is all about God's Sovereignty and absolute Righteousness in ALL things. And that truth – His Sovereignty in all things and His Righteousness in Everything He does – is the foundation upon which everything else we read in Romans is built. So the doctrine is the foundation – and now "brick by brick" in chapter 12, we begin to see the bricks that make up the building that is the Christian's life.

What are some of those bricks? Pastor Mike taught us that Christians love sincerely, hate evil as God does, and hold on tight to what is good. Pastor Bill continued by explaining that Christian love isn't just sincere; it's active, and it works hard. It's also intentional, seeking out opportunities to express itself. And Christian love is also transformative – it changes us, and it changes others. Then, last week, we learned that Christians also express the love that fills us by supporting our brothers and sisters and being hospitable.

So, looking back over the last three weeks, we can see that we've learned a lot about what Christian love looks like. How it works in, through, and out of us, and we will see more of this today.

In God's providence, our Bible reading plan took us through the entire book of Romans last week. I hope you could see how the principles we've been discussing are born out of the doctrinal foundation from the first 11 chapters of Romans. God's providence also brought us a negative example that I think will help us understand what we will discuss today.



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While watching the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, we got to see an example of the world's hatred for our God and for us when we were treated to a blasphemous mockery of the Last Supper. The organizers of the Paris Olympics thought it would be a good idea to riff on Leonardo DaVinci's famous Last Supper painting by using men dressed in garish women's clothing and makeup.

After Christians across the planet expressed their outrage, the Paris organizers claimed it was a recreation involving the Greek gods. The truth is that the person who organized it had already admitted it was a combination of the ideas that they were recreating. Make no mistake, this was a direct assault on the image, values, teaching, and authority of Scripture. So, how do we respond to such attacks? In obedience, humility, and faith that our Sovereign God is always in control – which is what we'll see today from Scripture.

Before we dive into our text, let me take a minute to return to our "foundation" in Romans 1-11 and the beginning of chapter 12. We'll need to dig into this a little to understand the "bricks" that we're studying today because the content we will look at in our passage is challenging, and I'll admit it before we even start. This is the kind of passage that the world looks at and mocks us for.

So, if chapters 1-11 are our class on Christian doctrine, beginning here in chapter 12, Paul outlines what the Christian's response to those truths ought to be.

In Chapter 12, verse 1, a crucial word kicks off this new direction of Romans. That word is a very important one, so important that Pastors and theologians often have a little saying that goes along with it. The word is "therefore" – you should circle it in your Bible as a reminder. The saying goes something like this, "*When reading Scripture, whenever we see a "wherefore" or a "therefore," you need to find out what it's there for.*"

Here, in Romans 12 verse 1, is a perfect example of this truism. In verse one, Paul says, "*I appeal to you **therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.***" See, that, **therefore**, is key.



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From the moment of our salvation, Paul commands Christians to present every second of their lives as a living sacrifice to God because it is our "spiritual worship." The KJV translates this little phrase a little differently. It says this is our "reasonable service." I like them both because they give different aspects of the same idea.

Essentially, our entire lives should be worship, not just Sunday mornings. Paul argues that this sacrifice of living every second for God and not for ourselves is a "reasonable" service.

Why? Because of the profound theological arguments he has made in the first 11 chapters of Romans, where he lays out God's supreme Sovereignty in **ALL THINGS**. Let me say it once more: church. GOD is SUPREME SOVEREIGN in ALL THINGS. Wake up in the morning? God is Sovereign over that. Have a warm bed? A hot shower? A good breakfast? Off to school or work? Did someone cut you off on your way in? Brown bag lunch? Broken taillight? Good day? Bad day?

God is Sovereign over it all.

He's never surprised, He's never caught off guard, and when you live your life as a sacrifice to Him, you are always right where you are supposed to be because HE IS SOVEREIGN over ALL THINGS.

As we've mentioned, Pastor John MacArthur calls chapters 1-11 the "foundation" of Romans. It's Paul's laying of a theological framework to bring the Roman believers to this point, where he can say, because of all the theology I just laid down for you as a foundation, this, then, is how YOU should live.

Chapters 12-16 deliver some of the most practical, daily living advice we could ever ask for, as Paul shows us how what we believe shapes how we should live. You've already seen how jam-packed this chapter is with directions on what we should be doing. Each sentence seems to be a different and essential command for us.



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Let your love be genuine. Hate evil. Hold on tight to what is good. Love each other with brotherly affection. Put others before yourself. Don't be lazy. Work hard. Serve the Lord. Be hopeful. Be patient. Pray constantly. Be generous. Be hospitable. These aren't instructions for Pastors – these are commands for us **all**.

Why? Because of the "therefore."

Which brings us to our first point.

**1. Because God is Sovereign – We Obey**

As I've said, the book of Romans is all about God's Sovereignty in everything. Paul begins by reminding us that God is Holy and every person who has ever lived is not.

We are all sinners deserving of death and Hell, and none of us can work our way to Heaven—**none of us**.

Paul then tells us that into this mess of a world that humanity has wrought, our Good and Gracious Sovereign God stepped in and sent His Son to fulfill His plan for our salvation.

Therefore, justification, or the being made right with God (and our salvation), can only come through Christ and is by faith in Him alone.

Because of Jesus's work, not our own – we have a great hope and can trust that our God will lead us home. Let me show you these things from a few verses in Romans. *(I will move quickly here, but the verses will be on the screen, and you can find them later in the sermon notes online.)*



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**1. God is Holy and righteous – Romans 1:18-20**

For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

**2. We are sinners – Romans 3:23**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**3. We deserve death and Hell – Romans 6:23a**

For the wages of sin is death

**4. We can't save ourselves – Romans 3:20**

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**5. But God intervened – Romans 5:8 and Romans 6:23b**

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

And

but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**6. Through the work of Jesus – Romans 5:6 and Romans 8:1-3**

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

And

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

**7. Hope in God's Sovereign Purpose – Romans 8:18 and 8:28-30**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

And

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of



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his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.  
30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

All of this leads us to chapter 11, where Paul explains that God has now hardened the hearts of the Jewish nation (not all of them, but most) and has opened the door to the Gentiles (that's us, praise our merciful God).

But Paul doesn't want the Gentiles to get arrogant or prideful with their newfound adoption into the family because it has nothing to do with them and everything to do with God.

Paul tells us that it is God who has hardened Israel while drawing the Gentiles to Himself so that He might receive even more GLORY from His people, and he closes chapter 11 with this beautiful doxology of praise in verses 33-36.

**Romans 11:33-36**

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.**

This is what Paul is talking about when he says, "Therefore" in chapter 12, verse 1.

Because of all of this in the first 11 chapters of Romans, **therefore**, Christians, you should love God, and because you love Him, you should **obey** every WORD that God commands in His Scriptures, even, or especially, the hard, unpopular commands. *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.*

So now we look at verses 14-15 in Romans 12 and see that we should **"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."**



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Interestingly, this is just a restatement of something Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:43-48**.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.** 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, [i] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

Jesus actually tells us WHY we bless those who persecute us – "45 **so that** you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

**We bless those who persecute us because it proves our adoption as sons of God. He is good to the evil. So we should be, too.**

By the way, we don't just see this in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus gives us the best example of this principle as he hangs on the cross, asking His Father to forgive His murderers. In Acts chapter 7, the first Christian martyr, Stephen, understood this as well because he, too, begged the Father to forgive his killers.

Wouldn't you know it? Paul was there to see Stephen live this principle to the very end.

**So, church, we bless those who persecute us because the God we love does, and He expects us to as well.**

Very quickly, the same thing holds true for verse 15. We should be happy when others are happy – too often in this world, rejoicing with others is tainted with the ugly color of envy, jealousy, or covetousness.





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I was listening to a Christian radio station earlier this week, when I heard the hosts asking callers to talk about something of their friends that "inspired" them to be jealous! They were doing this in a playful way, not mean-spirited at all, but it hurt my heart to hear Christians talking about being envious of their friends and loved ones – and without any remorse or anyone saying jealousy or covetousness is sin, STOP IT!

Christian, that should not be you.

We should also be ready to weep with those in pain or sorrow. In our world today, many who are suffering are forced to do so in solitude because our culture has become so selfish and self-centered. We don't want to be uncomfortable. Let's be honest; being around someone sad or hurting is uncomfortable. Church, may we not be so self-centered that we allow our friends, neighbors, loved ones, or even acquaintances to suffer alone. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ to those in pain. He loves them, and we must obey His example.

Why? Because God is Sovereign, and He has commanded us to do so. If we love Him, we will obey Him. *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.*

Secondly,

**2. Because God is Sovereign – We are Humble**

Oh boy. I'm hoping not to step on too many toes this morning. (Actually, I'll be honest, I hope I bruise everyone's feet!)

Humility seems to be a bad word in our day, doesn't it? Everyone acts like a 16-year-old arguing with their parents – "I think I know what I'm talking about here!" (No offense to our 16-year-olds here at Highlands, who have never argued with their parents like that.)



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Seriously, though. It seems that everywhere we turn, people are speaking like they're experts on anything and everything. In reality, no one has any reason to be proud in and of themselves. Christians, least of all.

Again, Romans 12:16-18 says,

**16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.**

**17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**

**18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.**

Here, Paul highlights the importance of humility in the Christian life. Humility is one of those topics that can cause a lot of disagreement among folks. I wrote about this in my world-famous, best-selling book, "Humble Like Me: How you can be as awesome and humble as I am."

Just kidding. But seriously, people hate the truth that humility is a virtue. Don't believe me? Look at our culture. What are millions of people striving to be? INFLUENCERS. How do they exert their influence? By making every moment of their day about themselves and then publicizing their thoughts, words, and deeds online for all to see. If that kind of lifestyle is not the very definition of pride, I don't know what is. So many other examples exist – just think of how our culture uses the word PRIDE. Isn't it almost always a good thing?

So, with the world telling us that pride is good, why don't we remind ourselves what God says about it?

Again, I'm going to throw a lot of Scripture at you here, but it'll be on the screen, and you can find it in the sermon notes online as well.

Let's start with the most famous Scripture on this issue. What happens when you're prideful?

**Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**



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But wait, there's more. Much more.

Proverbs 21:4 - Haughty eyes and a proud heart, **the lamp of the wicked**, are sin.

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23 - One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

Proverbs 26:2 - Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

The Scriptures also tell us God's feelings about pride and how He responds to it.

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

Proverbs 16:5 - Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an **abomination** to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

Did you catch the end of that verse? God doesn't just hate pride; He promises to punish it. James, the brother of Jesus, and the Apostle Peter both quote Proverbs 3:34, reminding their readers that God is completely opposed to pride.

James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

So, dear Christian, it does not matter what the world says about "pride" you are to abhor it. Instead, Paul clearly instructs us to "not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."



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But there's more here than just being humble. In this passage, we see a powerful connection between pride and evil and between humility and good.

For it seems that to live in **harmony** with one another, we must not be prideful. Humility will also lead us to do what is good, right, and honorable, which will guide us, so far as it is in our power, to live peaceably with all.

Did y'all realize how much power there was in true humility?

So, Proverbs tells us that pride is evil and leads only to sin; meanwhile, the fear of the Lord means we must hate evil. So when Paul writes:

**16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.**

**17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**

**18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.**

We learn that to live in harmony with one another, we must be humble. If we want to promote peace, we must hate evil and humbly do what is right.

This kind of humility, harmony, and peace is also connected to the love we've been learning about for the last four weeks. How? A few ways.

First, as we learned earlier in Romans, we have no reason to be proud. We were as lost as everyone else until God found us, opened our eyes to His truth, and adopted us into His family. He did all of the work; there is nothing for us to boast about, **so we love Him** because He first loved us.

**1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.**

In fact, most of 1 John 4 reinforces everything we've been learning about love in our "brick by brick" series.



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Secondly, it's connected because as 1 John 4 tells us that because God loves us, and we love Him, well, **we HAVE to love each other.**

In verses 20-21, John says,

**"If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."**

Strong words to be sure, but true nonetheless. Family, if you say you love God but don't love your brothers and sisters, you need to, as the kids say, check yourself before you wreck yourself. (Do the kids still say that?) Get with a pastor and dig into whatever is going on in your heart – because refusal to love the body of Christ is a sure indicator of a much bigger problem, being outside the family of God.

So, our lack of anything to boast about drives us to love God and the family of God. But how is that connected to humility, peace, and harmony?

In my house, my kids are forced to hear me repeat, over and over again, that we do not buy into the Greco-Roman myths about love. These myths say things like, "We just fell in love," "love is love," or "I can't live without him," or "Isn't she just perfect!"

Folks, none of that is biblical, and all of it can lead to terrible places and very heavy sin.



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One of my favorite theologians, Voddie Baucham, says this about true, biblical love –

***"Love is an act of the will accompanied by emotion that leads to action on behalf of its object."***

1. Act of the will (a choice you make)
2. Accompanied by emotion
3. That leads to action ON BEHALF of its object

This is the definition of True Biblical Love.

This is also precisely what Pastor Mike and Pastor Bill have been walking us through for the past three weeks.

The Apostle Paul explained it like this, in 1 Corinthians 13 –

**Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.**

Does that sound like the world's definition of love? Of course not.

If you can "fall in love," then you can obviously "fall out of love," and if you can fall out of love, then Paul tells us ... that wasn't really love because LOVE NEVER ENDS.

True biblical love is filled with brotherly affection, it puts others first, it's hospitable, and the only way it can be any of those things is if it is humble.

Do you want to put others first? Humble yourself and outdo each other in showing honor. Do you want to be hospitable? Humble yourself and outdo each other in showing honor. Do you want to love others with genuine brotherly affection? Humble yourself and outdo each other in showing honor.



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This is God's plan for the Christian. It's how He has been calling us to live for millennia.

**Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

How do we know this kind of humility can lead to lives of peace and harmony?

**James 4:6 - But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**

**James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**

**2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

Humility is powerful. And God calls us to it. For our good, the good of the church, the good of the world, and for God's glory.

Which brings me to our third and final point.

**3. Because God is Sovereign – We Overcome**

Look back at Romans 12 with me:

**19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."**

**20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."**

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



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In [John 15:18-25](#), Jesus explains that the world WILL hate us because it first hated Him. This is a hard truth, and many Christians refuse to believe it. They think that if we're "kinder," "gentler," and "softer" with the world – they'll finally see that we're not the bad guys, and we'll all get together and sing kumbaya or something.

But that's just not the case, friends.

Yes, as we read from Micah earlier, let us be kind, just, and humble – but it does not matter how kind we are; the world will always hate us. Why? Because they hated Jesus first – and we can't be any more kind, gentle, or humble than Him. So, the hard truth that we will be hated means that we will face persecution. WE WILL. It will look different for everyone.

Here in America, it's meant being mocked, called "weird," or being told that we're hateful and bigoted. That's nothing compared to what our brothers and sisters have faced. Under socialism, our siblings are intimidated, they lose jobs and opportunities, they face prison sentences, and they have even been executed for the crime of being Christian. In the Islamic world, they hide in fear, not just of the government but of their neighbors as well.

Living in the face of such persecution is hard. How should we respond when facing such evil? We respond in humility and obedience because our God is Sovereign, and we can trust what He is doing.

So the command comes, "Never avenge yourselves," why? Because God is the one who will repay. Instead, we obey the command to forego vengeance, and we humble ourselves.

How humbling must it be to feed the one who persecutes you? To give them a drink if they are thirsty? This response to the world's attacks is miraculous, and I believe that is the point.

When the world sees Christians stand up in a courtroom and forgive the murderer of a mother, father, sibling, or child – they are shocked. You've seen the news reports of such things in recent years.





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That the love of God can flow so powerfully through a person is simply astonishing to the world and even to us believers. We say things like, "I don't know if I could do that." Why? Because such obedience to God and such a love for His world and people is astounding!

But it's what we're called to.

Vengeance is NOT ours, church. It is God's, for He is Sovereign. This should be such a beautiful, peace-giving thought to us.

Did your neighbor offend you? Give it to God, and let it go. Did a coworker take credit that should have been yours? Give it to God, and let it go. Did a boss treat you unjustly? Give it to God, and let it go. Did a spouse uncaringly hurt your feelings? Give it to God, and let it go.

Do not hold onto the slights, slings, darts, and arrows of the world because it will only create bitterness in your heart and drive you further away from the Lord. Give Him all of it because He is Sovereign, and He can handle the dispensing of justice much better than you or I can.

When you refuse vengeance and respond in humility with love and kindness, we read that we "will heap burning coals" on the heads of our enemies. I looked into this and found that this turn of phrase is generally taken one of two ways by biblical scholars:

1. Our acts of love may have the effect of enflaming the conscience of the evil-doer and driving them to repentance, overcoming them with good.
2. In the Old Testament, "burning coals" always represents punishment, so this may mean we are to do good to them because we recognize that God will punish them if they refuse to repent.

In either scenario, what we see is that overcoming evil always comes by doing good. Christian, are you frustrated, saddened, or perplexed at the evil you see in the world around you?

STOP looking around; look to your Sovereign God above, and start doing good.



**Romans 1:14-21 "We Shall Overcome"**  
**Wk. 4 "Brick-by-Brick" series**  
**By Pastor Onan Coca August 11, 2024**

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If this seems difficult, it's because it is.

It's difficult for us to do in our own strength, perhaps even impossible. But we don't have to do it in our own strength.

The point of much of what Paul writes in the book of Romans is that God is in control of all things.

He has written the plays, He is moving the players on the field, He is scripting the dramatic moments, He is guiding the game to its final climactic conclusion, and He wants to use us, His Remnant, His Family, to bring the victory home.

If we obey, if we are humble, and if we do good works with faith in His Sovereignty, we can rest assured in the knowledge that we will overcome.

We will overcome in the moment by moment of life, and we will overcome on that final day.

Because guess what? I've read the back of the book, and we win.

**[CHALLENGE]**

As I close, let me leave you with some practical steps we can take as we walk away from here today.

**1. Be Obedient**

Scripture is God's Word, and every jot and tittle is worthy of obedience. We live in a post-truth culture that is constantly trying to undermine authority. Don't listen to the world. Don't let the world embarrass you with Scripture. If you read something that is hard for you to understand or get asked a question that you are embarrassed to answer with Scripture, lean into it. In a case like that, Scripture isn't the problem – we are. We cannot allow the culture to divide us from the truth of God's Word. OBEY Scripture, for therein lies salvation.



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**2. Be Humble**

Don't be haughty. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6, Paul lists out a bunch of kinds of sinners that will never see Heaven, and then he says, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." In Romans, we learn that the only reason that any of us get to be washed, justified, sanctified, and eventually glorified is because of the work of Christ, and it has nothing to do with us, so we cannot boast about it. Be humble because such were some of us. Boast only in Christ and what He has done for you.

**3. Be Good**

If we're obedient and humble, we should be doing good works. Because by doing good, we overcome evil. Be affectionate, put others first, work hard, be joyful, be hopeful, be patient, pray constantly, give generously of your time, talent, and wealth, and be hospitable! Do these things, and you will overcome evil. Imagine if everyone in our church began to purposefully look around them and see where we could actively do these things. We could change our community, our nation, and the world. Do good, church.

**4. Trust God**

Trust God's Sovereignty because in Obedience and Humility, we will Overcome.

Please pray with me.

**[PRAYER]**

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

Church, the prophet Micah summarizes God's call for our obedience with these words:

*Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*



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**[COMMUNION]**

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"

Congregation - recites the LBCF 1689 Chapter 1 Section 2, which is titled "Of God and the Holy Trinity."

God has all life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of himself. He alone is completely self-sufficient. He does not need any creature he has made and does not gain any glory from them. Rather, he demonstrates his glory in, by, and to creatures he has made. He alone is the source of all being. Everything is from him, through him, and to him. He is completely sovereign over all creatures, and does whatever he wants by them, for them, or to them. He can see everything openly and clearly. His knowledge is infinite and infallible, independent of any creature. God's knowledge is never dependent upon anything or uncertain. He is perfectly holy in all of his decisions, works, and commands. He deserves from angels and people the worship, service, and obedience that they owe to their creator, and also anything else he requires from them.

17. John 5:26

18. Psalms 148:13

19. Psalms 119:68

20. Job 22:2-3

21. Romans 11:34-36

22. Daniel 4:25, 34-35

23. Hebrews 4:13

24. Ezekiel 11:5; Acts 15:18

25. Psalms 145:17

26. Revelation 5:12-14

**[BENEDICTION]**

May our Sovereign God make you worthy of His calling and fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power so that the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus, may be glorified in you and you in Him. Now go and overcome the evil of this world in the strength and might of His Holy Spirit. Have a great week.



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**[RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY]**

[The London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689](#)

[The Sovereignty of God](#) by A.W. Pink

[Brick by Brick sermon series](#) by John MacArthur