

**Life Group Homework**  
**For the week of February 6, 2022**

What emotion(s) do you feel when you consider God's future vengeance upon the wicked and unsaved? Why do you feel this way?

Both of these passages refer to eternity, when we will be rewarded for loving our enemies and/or God will repay the wicked with vengeance. In what way(s) do these reminders enable you to love difficult/wicked/spiteful people?

**TAKING IT HOME**

5) Try to think of a person (or group of people) that would be considered your "enemy". What do you think God's heart is towards that person? Why do you think that?

How can you choose to love that person this week? (Be practical and specific!)

Take some time to pray specifically for this person, that God would bless them, and ask God to give you *His* heart for them.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

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- ▶
- ▶

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

- 1) This week Pastor Don warned us that Romans 9-11 can be confusing. How do you typically respond when you get confused when reading the Bible? (Be honest! Mark all that apply.)
  - Re-read the passage and the verses before/after
  - Ask someone to clarify (If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - Reference a Bible commentary (Favorite: \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - Ignore the fact that I'm confused and just keep reading
  - Get discouraged and stop reading
  - Look up the passage in another translation (Which one?)
  - Google it
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW**

- 2) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching in Romans 9:1-26, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

- 3) This week we read about God's love and plan for the nation Israel. Although many Israelites have rejected Jesus, God promised to always keep a remnant. What stands out to you from the following passage?

*(Background: Israel has turned away from God to worship the false god Baal. God led Elijah to "face off" with the false prophets on Mt. Carmel, and God showed Himself to be the true God. But the wicked queen put out a death warrant for Elijah, who then fled for his life. Now, God speaks to him.)*

**1 Kings 19:11-14, 18** - "[11] Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; [12] and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. [13] So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" [14] And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." ... (God responds by giving Elijah some tasks to do, and then God says:) ... [18] "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.""

Why do you think Elijah felt so depressed?

If you were Elijah, what would you have *expected* to happen after your "face off" with the false prophets in 1 Kings 18?

Why do you think God reveals that there were 7,000 Israelites who were like Elijah, in that they have not worshipped Baal but continued to worship God?

- 4) Even though many of the Jews tried to kill Paul for preaching about Jesus, he still loved them and longed for their salvation. Read the passages below, write down any questions or highlights, and answer the questions.

**Matthew 5:43-47** - "[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, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, [45] "that you may be sons of your Father 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 have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"

What do you think Jesus means when He says, "God makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good"?

Do we have to love our enemies in order to go to heaven? Why or why not?

**Romans 12:17-21** - "[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."

(Note: We know from the context that the phrase "heap coals of fire on his head" is not an act of malice. It may refer to helping somebody start a fire by giving them hot coals, which were often carried in a container on the head.)

## Romans 9:1-24 “God Sets Israel Aside-Temporarily!”

1) They are seeking to deny even the existence of God; based on their views of who a god should be and, therefore, deciding what God should be doing...

Romans 8:35, 37; 10:1; 11:33; Exodus 32:31; 2 Peter 3:3-4, 9

2) Maybe you struggle with God for the same reasons? He doesn't always meet up to your expectations of who God should be—and what an **omnipotent—all powerful** God should be doing!

Isaiah 55:8-9

3) “**Humanism**” teaches that mankind—the Human Race—is the highest being...the pinnacle of existence—of all living things! That you and I are the very center of the Universe! God should be using His powers as we desire—for our good—**not** His!

4) God is reaching out to the world through the rejection and hardness of Israel's heart, until sometime in the future—by the awful testings of the Tribulation—Israel will be brought to their knees, humbled, and truly, as a Nation, will repent.

John 1:1; Matthew 1:1; Colossians 1:26;

5) We can look back, and **realize now**, that God, knowing their stubbornness and hardness of heart, chose to use that stubbornness to set Israel aside temporarily—to extend the offer of salvation to the nations—the Gentiles.

Galatians 4:28; Genesis 25:27-28; Luke 14:26; Romans 9:13 **NLT**

6) Mankind isn't the highest “**Being**”...the **zenith** of all living things! Nor are we the **center** of God's created Universe!

...even worthy of God's **mercy**!

Exodus 7:3; 8:19, 32; 10:20; James 1:13; Isaiah 46:6, 9-10; 47:8-9  
Exodus 3:14

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