



# The Buck Stops Here

## Romans 12:14-21

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### Blessing (verses 14-18)

1. There are different kinds and intensities of persecution. Have you ever been on the receiving end of persecution? What was that like? What was the result?
2. What does Paul mean by, *“bless and do not curse them”*?
3. Why is this response so difficult for us?
4. Consider Paul’s list of blessing in action (verses 15-17). These days, for you which of these is the hardest / easiest to do?
5. What might each of these look like in the real time of your life?
6. Chuck Swindoll writes, *“The heart is a well and the tongue is a bucket. The lips can only draw from what’s in the heart, and an untransformed heart contains an insatiable desire to protect its own rights.”*<sup>1</sup> How can knowing God’s love, mercy, and grace towards us transform our responses in the midst of persecution?

### Vengeance (verses 18-21)

1. Have you ever acted in vengeance and things worked out well? What usually results from vengeance? Why do our efforts at seeking justice for ourselves ultimately fail?
2. In verse 19, Paul quotes Moses’ last words to Israel before they entered the Promised Land. Read and consider the immediate context of Paul’s quote (Deuteronomy 32:35-43). What is God communicating to His people through Moses? Why do they need to know this? What is Paul’s application of these verses to the lives of the Roman believers? How might the truths of these verses be applied to your life?
3. In verse 20 Paul quotes Proverbs 25:21,22. What does Paul leave out? Why?
4. What is Paul’s point about vengeance, God, and our inclination to focus on ourselves?
5. In verse 21, the Greek word for “overcome” has the idea of being victorious: How do we gain victory in the midst of evil? How might this truth be an encouragement to you this week?

### EXTRA CREDIT:

1. 2 Kings 6:8-23 is a real time example of God at work in the life of Elisha and his servant Gehazi. What did Elisha know that can be of help to you? What did Gehazi learn about God at work that can be helpful to you? What did the king of Israel, Jehoram, learn that can be helpful to you?
2. In the adverse circumstances and relationships of your life...  
...what or who are you marinating your thoughts on? Is this helpful? Do you have peace?  
...how will you choose to respond this week so that God may use you according to His will and for His glory?

### TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:

1. If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why?
2. How do you plan to respond to it this week?
3. Who do you know who needs to hear what was helpful for you in this study? When will you share this encouragement with them?

1. Charles R. Swindoll, “Insights On Romans”, Zondervan, 2010, page 264