

## **My Thoughts For Sunday, March 16, 2014**

### **"I Will Get Even"**

*Colossians: Chapter 3*

How often have you heard someone say this? Or, perhaps, I am going to make him/her suffer the hurt and ridicule he/she caused me? Or maybe the old phrase, 'My day will come' I am sure we have all heard these statements of revenge in our day. Perhaps we have used them ourselves, from time to time, before we became believers in and followers of Christ. Maybe we still slip into that same sinful attitude from time to time, though we might not voice it. I know that even though I don't want to feel this way I often, in some trying times, slip into this frame of mind.

We need to remember what transpired at our glorious baptism, as the Holy Spirit, through the Word buried our sinful natures in Christ and we were raised up in Christ our Savior. (Colossians 3:1-4) Paul relates God's promise that when Christ appears, we also shall appear with Him in His glory. Isn't this considerably better than that momentary pleasure we might experience from that act of "getting even?" Let's go back again and look at what the scriptures tell us of how we now should want to act, in the light of Christ's gift. We are admonished to put aside all these desires that belong to our earthly, sinful natures, as explained in Colossians 3:5, because this is the reason for Jesus' return; to put an end to these practices and those who build their lives on the continuation of hurts and pains put on their neighbors.

Paul goes on in Colossians 3:12-14 to tell us how we need to change our sinful attitudes that were buried in Christ and take on the new person, forgiving and loving one another, just as Christ forgave and continually shows His unwarranted love for us.

Let this peace of Christ dwell in our hearts and let His message lead us to forgive those who formerly hurt us. Show them instead, love and forgiveness, building up one another in the wisdom and knowledge of God. We must destroy that revenge attitude continually as we grow in faith and take to heart Paul's closing statement in Colossians 3:17; "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Join with me in thanks and praise to God that through Jesus we might be willing and able to truly change our ways and enjoy the fullness of the body of Christ we have been made alive in.

