

A TIME TO HEAL
“A Time to Withhold”
Pastor Michael Lee
May 4, 2008

Romans 12:19-21 (ESV)

Key Thought:

When I am wronged, God will take up my cause and see to it that justice is done (v. 19b)

- God is absolutely committed to justice being done. All things will be set right. All wrongs will be judged.
- God's justice ultimately triumphs, whether in this life or after death.

BECAUSE I TRUST GOD TO EXECUTE JUSTICE....

I. It frees me from the burden of taking justice into my own hands (v. 19a)

- I don't need to be the judge because God is and he will judge on my behalf. I don't need to win on earth. God will win for me in the last day.

II. It frees me to respond to the offender with kindness instead of with evil (vv. 20-21)

- Because God is going to take up my cause and see to it that justice is done, I can lay it down. I don't have to carry anger and bitterness and resentment and revenge.
- I can let my kindness triumph over my enemy's hostility instead of letting my enemy's hostility produce hostility in me.
- Retaliation means that another person's evil has made me evil. And, if that happens, then my offender is the victor.

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Trusting God to execute justice frees me from the burden of taking justice into my own hands and to respond with kindness.