

## Give God Your Revenge by John Piper, Solid Joys, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

*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."* (Romans 12:19)

Why is this such a crucial promise in overcoming our bent toward bitterness and revenge? The reason is that this promise answers one of the most powerful impulses behind anger — an impulse that is not entirely wrong.

In many cases, real wrongs have been done to us. Therefore, it is not entirely wrong to feel that justice should be done. What's wrong is to feel that we must make it happen and that we may feel bitter until it does. This would be a deadly mistake.

During my seminary days, Noël and I were in a small group for couples that began to relate at a fairly deep personal level. One evening we were discussing forgiveness and anger. One of the young wives said that she could not and would not forgive her mother for something she had done to her as a young girl.

We talked about some of the biblical commands and warnings concerning an unforgiving spirit.

- Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

- If you do not forgive others . . . neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:15)

But she would not budge. So I warned her that her very soul was in danger if she kept on with such an attitude of unforgiving bitterness. But she was adamant that she would not forgive her mother.

The grace of God's judgment is promised to us here in Romans 12 as a means of helping us overcome such a deadly spirit of revenge and bitterness.

Paul's argument is that we can be sure that all wrongs will be dealt with by God and that we can leave the matter in his hands because vengeance belongs to the Lord. To motivate us to lay down our vengeful desires he gives us a promise: "I will repay, says the Lord."

The promise that frees us from an unforgiving, bitter, vengeful spirit is the promise that God will settle our accounts. He will do it more justly and mercifully and more thoroughly than we ever could. He punishes all sin. Nobody gets away with anything. He punishes it either in Christ on the cross for those who repent and trust him, or in hell for those who don't. Therefore, we can back off and leave room for God to do his perfect work.

### Events

TODAY Members Meeting 7 PM  
8/1 7th-9th Bible Study 7 PM  
8/4 Campus Outreach Update  
7 PM  
8/7 Small Groups 7:15 PM  
8/10 Senior Breakfast

### Give



### Upcoming



# welcome!

**BE NOT DISMAYED  
FOR I AM YOUR GOD**

—  
**Isaiah 41:10**

### Pastors

Gary Hendrix     Stephen Byrd  
Stu Johnston     Bob Prentice  
Michael Lopes

### Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am  
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm  
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm  
919-563-9249  
[www.grbc.net](http://www.grbc.net)

July 28, 2019



**GRACE**  
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al español  
disponible en servicios  
de AM y PM

## Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes let me see

Beauty that made this heart adore You

Hope of a life spent with You

**(Chorus) Here I am to worship**

**Here I am to bow down**

**Here I am to say that You're my God**

**You're altogether lovely**

**Altogether worthy**

**Altogether wonderful to me**

King of all days

Oh so highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above

Humbly You came to the earth You created

All for love's sake became poor

**(Chorus)**

I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross (repeat)

**(Chorus)**

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Scripture Reading

**2 Kings 6:24-25, 7:1-20, page 312**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

Preparatory

**#421 Rock of Ages**

**Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

**(Chorus) My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,**

**and like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

**(Chorus 2x)**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;

but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.

Text: John Newton, add. Words by L. Giglio, E. Exell, Chris Tomlin & J. Rees  
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Sermon

**Pastor Gary Hendrix**

## Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Scripture Reading

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

Pastor Stephen Byrd

**#223 Arise My Soul, Arise**

**Joshua 1, page 178**

**In My Heart**

1. In my heart there is a stirring, one that did not start with me;

A love to worship my Creator, to show His love for all to see.

**(Chorus) I will worship, I will honor, I will exalt the Lord above;**

**All my days I'll sing the praises of His great redeeming love.**

2. In my heart there is a treason, one that poisons all my love.

Take my heart and consecrate it, wash it in Your cleansing flood. **(Chorus)**

3. Tie me to the Rock unchanging, tie me to His wondrous cross.

I'll fix my eyes upon the Savior, all other things I count as loss. **(Chorus 2x)**

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Preparatory

**Come All Ye Pining**

Lord, we adore thy boundless grace, the heights and depths unknown

Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace in thy beloved Son

**(Chorus) Come, all ye pining, hungry poor the Saviour's bounty taste**

**Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest**

O wondrous gifts of love divine dear Source of every good

Jesus, in thee what glories shine how rich thy flowing blood

**(Chorus)**

Here shall your numerous wants receive, a free, a full supply

He has unmeasured bliss to give and joys that never die

**(Chorus)**

**Behold a never-failing store for every willing guest**

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Sermon

**Pastor Stu Johnston**