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Dear Friends,

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You may remember that last month I was fretting about what to write to you so this month I've improved, somewhat, and until this morning I was just wrestling with my thoughts for this newsletter. I watch the world, national, and, local news and it's hard not to be concerned for what is going to happen next. In a way, I admire folks who can't or won't watch the news but, I just have to know what is going on out there. Over the past year and a half I have been concerned and embarrassed by the reactions some 'Christians'. I mentioned, in a past letter, that the Apostle Paul says in Romans 13 that we are to respect our government leaders because God is really in charge and He puts them where they are! I know some Christians don't agree with Paul. Then this morning while reading Romans again something just jumped off the page, actually it's a screen, and again Paul has this unique ability to give me the answer to my prayer for a newsletter topic. Thank you Holy Spirit!

### The Marks of a True Christian

Romans 12: 9-21

*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.  
Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.  
Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.  
Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.  
Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those weep.  
Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.  
Never be wise in your own sight.  
Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.  
If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.  
Beloved, never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God,  
for it is written "Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord" to the contrary,  
if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink;  
for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."  
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Paul's powerful list gives us some important attributes that should be developing in every true Christian. We may not be perfect in everything on this list but, we should be growing in these qualities and others should be able to see them in our everyday life. As difficult circumstances continue in our country and the world it is important that our little light should shine its brightest! Matthew 5:16...*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.*

Please continue to pray for Alpha because summer is usually a slow time for us and this year is not an exception. You might also pray for our health since both of us are over 70 and things don't work as well as before. I am scheduled for both eye and hearing exams soon and driving at night. when it's raining, may soon be over for me.:-)

Thank you for your faithfulness to Alpha and Debi and me. We are honored by your love notes and how generous you are in helping people through Alpha!

*May God Bless you and keep you healthy!*

*Richard*