



The Christian and the State

ROMANS 13: 1 – 7

15 DECEMBER 2019. P.M.

SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 13: 1 - 3

¹ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

Romans 13: 5 - 7

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Submit to Government.

Vv. 1 - 3

- ▶ Every person in every nation. V. 1.
 - ▶ Because government is established by God.
 - ▶ Despite ungodly, immoral and corrupt officials.
- ▶ Resisting authority is opposing the ordinance of God. V. 2.
 - ▶ One can expect to be punished by that authority.
 - ▶ One can also expect punishment by God.
- ▶ Government established to curtail evil. V. 3.
 - ▶ Good behavior should result in not fear of authority.
 - ▶ Good behavior should result in praise from authority.

A Minister of God. Vv. 4 – 5.

- ▶ Minister (διδάκονος), servant of God. V. 4.
 - ▶ Minister of good, to bring good to society.
 - ▶ Minister of the sword, to punish evil in society.
 - ▶ An avenger bringing the wrath of God on evil doers.
- ▶ Reasons to therefore submit to government authority.
 - ▶ For wrath, in fear of punishment.
 - ▶ For conscience, knowing God's requirements to be good citizens of the state.

Pay What is Due. Vv. 6 – 7.

- ▶ Rulers are servants (λειτουργοὶ) of God.
 - ▶ Like priests or Pastor's rulers are “public servants.”
 - ▶ They are to be supported by taxes willingly given.
 - ▶ They are to be supported by the taxes of the people.
- ▶ Tax, custom, respect, and honor are due.
 - ▶ We are to pay all taxes required.
 - ▶ Custom is like sales taxes being more irregular.
 - ▶ Despite the character of the ruler he or she is to be respected and honored.

Conclusion



- ▶ We have certainly been blessed with a representative form of Government.
- ▶ God established government over all societies for the benefit of all.
- ▶ Government is often corrupt and immoral, but Christians are to be good citizens and pay taxes.
- ▶ In the event government oversteps its boundaries, the Christian must obey God rather than men.