

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia
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ROMANS LESSON 86 PART ONE: “GOD’S WORD ON GOVERNMENT”

ROM 13:1-7 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

³ *For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to [those who do] bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.*

⁵ *Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*

⁶ *For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

God gave the command through Noah that a “government” would be established that would enforce good over evil. Evil was to be punished, and good rewarded. [GEN 9:]
As we covered in our previous Lesson, this was enforced and expanded upon through the ages of the “The Promise”, then “The Law”, and now into the “The Age of Grace.” However, the fallen nature of man perverted and abused the original purpose of God. That does NOT change the Divine Order that Government is His Command.
In ROM 13, Paul presents the necessity, the purpose, and the limits of God’s appointed plan for Government.

CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

PHIL 3:20 *But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...*

Although it is true and important, that we live appropriately as “citizens on Earth” that is NOT our true identity. At the time of the Rapture, this “vile body” will be “outwardly transformed” to match the Body of our Lord.

This outward transformation is “cosmetic” – for our New Creation has already been made in the “image and likeness” of God.

EPH 4:24 *“...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Citizenship – Politeuma - *to conduct oneself according to the laws and customs of a State / Nation* – a Citizen was one who had freedom to move, speak, and was considered a Citizen of Rome, as well as their Province.

Although we live here... We DON’T! Our TRUE identity is Heavenly...

COL 3:1-4 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

There are rules / principles / benefits / privileges which belong to us as Believers... that unbelievers do not have... BUT THEY CAN...

Our “*Heavenly Citizenship*” establishes a position that is unique from unbelievers. We are “Seated in Christ” and our true life is IN Him. We think differently... We speak differently... We live differently! The world system may constrain and oppress us, but we serve a Higher Authority to which ALL earthly powers will someday answer.

Listen to Peter:

2 PETER 3:11 *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness...*

1 PETER 2:15-17 *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.¹⁶ Live as people who ARE FREE, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

APPOINTED AUTHORITY

ROM 13:1-2 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

God does not allow “Government” to be an institution of man... HE has ordained it: it “was” it “is” and “continues to be” His purpose and plan until the 2nd Coming of the Son of God. There is much repetition of the same words in these verses, but they are necessary for clarity and enforcement: “Authority... Appointed... Resists... Good... Evil”

- *Every person... – this is not a casual issue... EVERY person is to be subject to this Authority...*
- THE JEWS were a continual “*thorn in the side*” of the Romans – (The Question to Jesus) ...
 - Although the Romans allowed them to Worship “YAHWEH”, and not their pagan gods, they were demanded to “respect” the Rule of the Emperor...
 - Many of the Jews felt obedience to Rome was a violation of THE LAW:
DEUT 17:14-15 *“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,”¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose.
One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.*

ROMANS LESSON 86 PART TWO: “GOD’S WORD ON GOVERNMENT”

- THE CONVERTED PAGANS had come from cultures where violence ruled their lives and Nations...
 - Kings were constantly being overthrown, and new Tribal rulers established...

- Under Rome they obeyed in outward form, but most were only obedience out of threat...
- BELIEVING ROMAN CITIZENS were loyal to the Emperor... The thought of having a “Ruler” above him was not only confusing but “*an act of Treason*”
- *Authorities / Higher powers...* - **Exousia** – “*Those who have themselves been placed in authority*” - the freedom of a citizen “ends” with the “*authority placed over them*” -
- *Governing...* – **Huperexousias** – “*Who are presently governing over*” – this “governing power / position” was established by God and HAS NOT ended...
- *Be Subject ...* - **Hupotasso** – (*PresPass*)- To “*continue placing yourself in rank under*” – This is a Command from God through Paul – It is “the person’s” responsibility to “take this position” LESS they be subject to the judgment they bring to themselves...
- *For... there is no authority [except] NOT from God...* – No one has been placed over you other than the One God has placed... – This overrides the issue of domination by a person placing themselves over others...
- *Those “existing” [are]... The Ones that Presently are...* This authority was established by God... – This is not subject to Time / change of Governments / change of Rulers...
- *Have been instituted by God [By God have been instituted and therefore remain]...* – From **“Tasso”** - *to appoint, to assign a place to, to ordain...* - In the perfect tense: “**have been ordained** and as a result **remain ordained**.” That is, human government IS a permanent institution brought into being by God for the regulation of human affairs.
- *Therefore... Whoever resists ...* – “*Because of this fact...*” – **“Antitassomenas”** - *To set oneself in opposition / To set against as an opposing Army...* – *Authorities...* – **Exousia** – The Ones placed with authority over you... -
- *Resists what God has appointed...* – *[Are resisting the appointed ones from God]...* – Your “battle” is against the ONES that have been placed in that position by God
- *And... Those who resist... [Are resisting] ...* – *a state of “antagonism”*
- *Incur judgment... [will take to (lay upon) themselves judgment]...*
Will Incur... – From **“Lambano”** – *FutMid* – Will as a fact Lay upon themselves...
Judgment... – **“Krino”** - a judgment of condemnation against for actions taken / decisions made...

The “**question**” is: From WHOM does the “judgment” come?

APPOINTED FOR GOOD

Rom 13:3-4 *For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to [those who do] bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.*

Contrary to what many have believed, Government is NOT the enemy. As “believers” we are “FREE”. But that freedom is from “obedience to The Law” in order to be declared “righteous”... It is NOT freedom from rules, obligations, and the order by which our society is established.

Paul starts this next section with a very bold, firm, unyielding statement...

- *[For the] Rulers ...* – **“Archon”** – *One who is placed / ranked above...* The person is NOT above others in value or worth, – it is NOT the “person” who is appointed but the “place” they are filling...

- *are not a Terror...* – “Phobos” – *The root of this word carries the idea of “bowing before”*
When used in a positive sense (*God... His Word*) it would be translated “Fear” / to yield place and obedience... *That which inspires “Awe”*
When used in a Negative sense it is “Terror” – and would apply to One before whom a person would cower or flee ...
- *To Those who do “good”... “works” [conduct] ...* – “Agathos ... Ergon” – These are “works / activities” that are produced from the “inner good” / true activity of a pure heart – *those doing “good works” are to receive “approval”*
- *But to those who do “bad...” - -* *Kakon* - *wicked, vicious, bad in heart, conduct, and character... often drawing others into their wickedness...*

Paraphrase: *Recognize the divine right of the State, for its representatives are not a terror-an object of dread-to the good work, but to the bad...*

- *Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?* – Based upon what has been written above the CHOICE is yours (in a proper Government)
- *Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval... [and God's]* –
 - *Good...* – “Agathos” – *That which is of intrinsic / inward / of the heart / divine good...*
 - *Approval...* – *Praise / Applause / Commendation...* – Government is not only to control, rule, and regulate, but also to award and promote those who do good...
 - ⁴ *for he is God's servant ... for your good...* – “Diakonos” – *one who serves the purpose of God assisting with natural needs that help others...* – *Would that those in Government recognized this purpose and carried-out their business accordingly...*
- *But if you do wrong...* – These are the ones who are to be under threat of the Government... NOT intended for the good...
 - *be afraid...* – “Receive the terror your actions deserve” -
 - *for he does not bear the sword in vain ...* -
 - *Bear the sword...* – “Makaira” – “The Sword of Justice” – To have authority of Life & Death...
 - By appointment of the Emperor, “*They who rule a whole province, have the right to the sword*”
 - Trajan gave a sword inscribed with the phrase: “*For me*’... *IF I deserve it, ‘In me*”
 - *In vain...* – *Empty of purpose...* The Sword is not ceremonial but judicial...

TOO OFTEN Governments get these issues wrong. THEY become a the “wicked” and induce “terror” upon the “good” – Oppressing NOT serving...

- *For he is the servant of God...* – “Diakonos” – His service is TO God... not his position, his policies, his interests... WHAT has GOD given that he is called upon to maintain... Without a “knowledge of God” the “authorities” have no basis upon which to establish “Rule”
 - *an avenger ...* – “Ekdikos” – *One who executes Right and Justice...*
 - *(who carries out) of God's wrath...* “Orge” – It is GOD’S WRATH... not the Emperor’s or the States... Only a proper knowledge of God can administer this kind of Power Righteously...
 - *on the wrongdoer...* – “The one who is a practice-er of evil”