Grace & Peace to You"

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor*: Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member*

ROMANS LESSON 87 PART ONE: "FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE"

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's purpose for "government" was for the good of those who lived under that authority. These authorities were appointed to reward good works, and to punish evil. That, of course, has not always been the case. Because all of humanity has been born under the curse of the Fall, evil is in the heart of all descended from Adam.
We as Believers have been commissioned by God to live as obedient servants to the authorities, as they are to be God's servants. We do this NOT just as a rule of law, but as one who responds to God's purpose.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

- *Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?* – **Based upon what has been written above the CHOICE is yours** ***(under 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"** *– The "Deacon" one who serves the purpose of assisting with natural needs in order to help others…*
    - **In THE CHURCH – Serving needs of THE BODY - fulfilling the purpose of The Master [JESUS]**
    - **In Secular Sense – Serving the needs and business of the people over whom they have been set in Authority…** ***"AS in a Chain of Command"***
    - **Would that those in Government recognized this purpose and carry-out their business accordingly? THEY are responsible to the "Rank" above them BUT ultimately to GOD…**

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- *BUT if you do wrong… –* These are the ones who are to be *"under threat of the Government's wrath"*… NOT intended for those who are doing good… *THEY should have NO fear of Government*
  - *be afraid… –* "Receive the terror your actions deserve" -
  - *for he does not bear the sword … in vain … – The "Ruling Authority" Emperor down to Local Power*
    - *Bear the sword… –* "Makaira" *– "The Sword of Justice" –* To have authority over Life & Death… *The Power of their authority is appointed by the One who is above them*
      - By appointment of the Emperor, *"They who rule a whole province, have the right to the sword" –* those in lesser Positions have limited Power…
      - Trajan gave a sword inscribed with the phrase: *"'For me' … IF I deserve it, 'In me' if NOT"*
    - *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 or enforce "terror" upon the "good" – Oppressing NOT serving…

ROMANS LESSON 87 PART TWO: "FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE"

- *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…
    - Those who Do Evil MAY find "judgment / wrath" in THIS life… The "Appointed Authority has been given that power…
    - BUT they will certainly receive judgment whe they stand before God
    - 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"* – THE the limit of their power is to be established by God's Authority… NOT their desire… ambitions… greed… or perversion…

ROM 13:5 *Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*

(EVERYONE) must be in subjection… – This command from God is NOT only for the Evil OR the Good it applies to ALL equally BUT with different outcomes…

- *"…In subjection… -* To take their proper / assigned / designated Ranks under the Authority above them … Ultimately God… –
  - *To avoid God's Wrath…* FOR the Evil they have done… – *Wrath* – again the word is "Orge" wrath reserved until the time of Judgment – *"pending doom" – the wrath may be executed by the civil authority BUT it is ultimately God's*
  - *For the sake of conscience…* –

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- *Conscience –* **"Suneidesis"** *- That which "judges between the two" –*
  - **What has been received /taught as truth / correct / just … As they** ***have been taught*** **… -**
  - **And that which they are doing / living / thinking… -As they are applying OR rejecting what has been given according to the above…** ***– (This MAY BE wrong information)***

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

ROM 13:6-7A ***"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)…"***

Have you ever wished the Bible didn't say something? HERE is one we could include…
"Just because you don't like what it says, doesn't mean it's not in the Bible" **Title for 1 of my Sermons**

- ***Because of this… –***
  Tertullian – Early Church Father and Historian of the Church wrote: ***"What the Romans lost by the Christians refusing to bring Gifts and Taxes to the Temples, they gained back because the Christians were the ones who conscientiously paid their taxes to the Government."***
- ***They are Ministers of God…*** **– "Leitourgos" –** ***a public minister, a servant of the State…*** **In this role, they are God's "Public Ministers" – This is a God ordained position –** ***The Tax collectors are NOT the servants of the Authorities… Although they receive the Taxes / Revenue for them to use… -***
- ***Attending to this thing… – This is their appointed position and stands under their "submission" to the Authorities***
- **Monetary Support –**
  "Pay to all **[Government Authorities]** ***…" – "All.."*** **To those who are appointed OVER you…**
  - ***Taxes*** **– In context and relationship "Taxes"** ***would refer to that which is given to support the Civil Authorities – from local to Empire wide… including Military support…***
  - ***Revenue*** **– This would include** ***"use taxes (tolls) / tariffs on goods / road and infrastructure costs / building programs / public support programs…"***

ROM 13:7B ***"…respect to whom respect (is owed), honor to whom honor (is owed)."***

- **Moral Support –**
  - ***Fear…*** **– "Phobos" – Here used in the less threatening context – a** ***"yielded reverence / respect" for the Position*** **-**
    - ***is due …*** **– This is implied in the repetition of the word – This is not given by demand nor enforced upon someone, but voluntarily in regard to their Office**
  - ***Honor…*** **– "Time"** ***– Honor regarding the work / service / assistance of someone*** **– This is for the person as an individual**
    - ***is due …*** **– This is implied in the repetition of the word – This is not given by demand nor enforced upon someone, but voluntarily in regard to what has been received …**