

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Studies in the Book of Romans - 18

Date: January 31, 2010

Text: Rom. 13:1-7

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GOD, GOVERNMENTS & RULES

INTRODUCTION Paul has just finished a series of practical admonitions encouraging the believers at Rome to keep their lives on a positive path sprinkled with an attitude of servanthood. Now it was time to share with his readers, a most volatile subject of his time – the need for submission to the brutal and godless secular government of the Roman Empire. Such a topic I’m sure sparked outrage and criticism, but Paul stood his ground and presented God’s Word concerning secular relationships of the Christian and the world of authority around them. Let’s explore this and see...

I. Rules for the Governed – (13:1-2a)

- A) God’s Appointment – *“God ordained civil government for all”*
- B) God’s Approval – *“To submit to government is to obey God”*
- C) God’s Anomaly – *“Exceptions for civil disobedience”*

II. Responsibilities of Governments – (13:2b-5)

- A) To Punish the Lawless – *“Capital punishment is included”*
- B) To Protect the Lawful – *“To do good for all people”*

III. Remuneration for Governing – (13:6-7)

- A) Monetary support – *“We are to support our government”*
- B) Moral Support – *“We are to honor those in authority”*

CONCLUSION: We now understand the role and purpose of human government, and the place it plays in keeping this world from the chaos of sin. Let us therefore be sure to practice our submission to all governing authorities over us from the realm of the Home, the Church and to the State in a manner that pleases the Lord and brings glory to Him.

TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Rom 13:1-7 (NIV) "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2) Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted...

... and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3) For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4) For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5) Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

6) This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7) Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."