

## [Romans Chapter Thirteen]

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~ Our Spiritual Safari has been considering the duty of sons of God in regard to our responsibility to the world in this section of Scripture; and we examined the fact that there is a relationship between the child of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, other believers and unbelievers. This report will define our relationship to *government* and to our country. The child of God is to be a law-abiding citizen, according to Scripture. In our last report, we briefly looked at verse one; and if you did not read our previous report, I suggest you go back and do so now....

***1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.***

~ This is extremely difficult for most of us to lay hold of; and I'll be the first to admit it. Questioning and challenging authority is in-bred in the American blood-line. But we are to submit to whatever authority is in power; because God said so – and no other reason. God said He placed the power over you – deal with it. God never said if you don't like the powers that be then vote someone else into office, either. That's just not God's way, my friends.

Now, the kingdoms of this world belong to Satan; and injustice and corruption abound in every level of government – an axiom that cannot be denied. History holds a monotonous account of how governments flourish for a time in pomp and pride, but then quickly come to ruin. There are many debatable reasons why ancient civilizations became extinct; but two words will suffice: lawlessness and corruption. When those become intrinsically engrained in a society, God will bring about their demise.

God still rules this world, and He presides over every law in the universe. In spite of our desperate present state, God is in control. It's easy to question that, isn't it? Emerson said, "*.... things are in the saddle, and they ride mankind.*" I think he was exactly wrong. I know it looks that way, but God has not abdicated. We have seen time after time in this safari how the Lord

Jesus driveth His Own chariot for us to follow, and He isn't asking us for any comment on that! Sometimes He driveth furiously. He isn't disturbed about what's happening in this world; God isn't in Heaven biting His fingernails wondering if mankind is going to be honest in governmental dealings! God already knows the heart of man is desperately wicked. That's the point of what we are studying!

You may recall at the death of good King Uzziah in Judah – when the government seemed to be absolutely disintegrating – Isaiah, who was very discouraged, went into the temple and into God's presence. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon the throne, high and lifted up! Uzziah was dead but God wasn't. God is still on the Throne as I type this report and you read it, my beloved – and He's speaking directly to us now. A believer's allegiance is to the Throne of God Almighty and to His Throne *only*. The relationship of the believer to worldly government is total and complete submission. I know most people do not like that, but it just happens to be inescapable....

***2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.***

~ Anyone resisting the authority of government is resisting God's commands. This is a bitter truth to have to digest, friends. This principle is a law that is equally as tangible as gravity is a tangible law. If you revolt and protest, you will receive judgment, my friends. Verse one raises many questions, and the following verses amplify and explain the answers. Verse two seems to preclude the possibility of a believer ever having any part in a rebellion or revolution. Well, friends – how about it?

Many misguided self-professing believers have opposed bad government supported by their own theory that good government is ordained by God. Others believe the voice of the majority is the voice of God. Well, the Bible doesn't teach those things, friends. The believer is for law and order and diametrically opposed to lawlessness according to truth; is for truth and justice as opposed to corruption and injustice. At a crisis in history, such as we are experiencing today, the believer has difficult but mandatory decisions to make. I am going to present my Biblical understanding in this

report because I believe it coincides correctly with history and the entirety of Scripture.

Lawlessness abounds presently on a global scale. The true believer *MUST* be opposed to and *MUST* refuse to participate or condone injustice. We need to be *very* cautious to identify those who would change our government under the guise of improving it. John the Baptist was beheaded at the command of Herod; Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate. Herod was also responsible for James murder. Paul was put to death by Nero. Yet, Paul wrote verse two!

See, Christianity never assumed the role of improving government or even to help society. The function of Christianity is not to clean the world up. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation of the *individual!* Paul never went around protesting the deplorable condition of Roman prisons and a malicious prosecution – and he knew all about them. It seems Paul ended up in jail in just about every town he went through! If you ever have a chance to visit that Mamertine prison in Rome, it will be well worth your while. If you have claustrophobia, you won't stay long. They kept Paul in the inner prison – it's cold and damp down there.

I understand the difficulties of obeying a command from God that says to obey a corrupt government. I am not impressed today by men who are putting on the mask of patriotism and singing the national anthem on the news every day in self-promotion. That goes for politicians *AND* preachers who indulge their pride that way. Every one of them who use a patriotic front – every single one – every, single. one. of. them – from the top to the bottom - is corrupt! It isn't confined to a certain party, either. Those unsaved and godless men are in positions of high power, and they do not even understand the American system. They have no clue about the spiritual heritage we have. America is a nation of law based on a Bible background. Not every single one of our founding fathers was a Christian – although most were; such as John Hancock - but they *ALL* had a respect for the Word of God.

Frankly, I am resentful and perhaps cynical of government. I am not going into specifics, because this is not a point that should be argued; our

government is wholly and completely corrupt. There is something radically wrong in our system; I think everyone knows that. In order for me to do what God has told me to do, it has cost me everything – and I mean everything. No one pays me to conduct this missionary ministry. Let's be real – I scrounge to fulfill this ministry like an outdoor cat. In fact, I am not even recognized as a legitimate ministry or mission. So, when I see the absolute waste and fraud that goes on around me on ALL levels – I rightly resent the ruse. When I see these multi-million-dollar buildings that have been built under contracts by the friends of politicians, I just have to laugh - because this is what we call a fair market and equal opportunity. For the government to promote equal opportunity is the most ridiculous joke we have come up with yet.

On the other side of the street there is abject poverty; and both sides of the government talk about their poverty program - but nothing gets done. Poverty is perpetuated and is progressive. Don't think corruption is not prevalent in our governmental circles today. It must be this way because the problem is in the hearts of men; the problem isn't a government, in and of itself. Any form of government is acceptable if the hearts of the men that run the government are right with God! We don't have that today in ANY country.

Since the hearts of men are wrong, and they are going to remain that way, all I can do is give out the Word of God sincerely, in as educated a manner as I am capable of, and in the leading of the Spirit of God. That's something I can do while obeying the law. Again, I do not consider Christianity a movement to help government on any level. Government is to function only to enforce law and order – that's it; and when it doesn't do that, it has failed, and the believer is to be opposed to *that*! My business is to preach the Gospel that is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ unto salvation and to pray the Lord will bring men into office like the men that founded this country originally; and established our government of laws accordingly....

***3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:***

***4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.***

***5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.***

***6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.***

~ We are to respect our rulers when they are enforcing the law; particularly the police. I know our police make mistakes - but I don't think they make nearly as many mistakes as they are blamed for. Mankind is the "x" in these equations. "X" is changing, uncertain, fluid and can never be trusted. The Christian is to be the best citizen; even though his citizenship is in Heaven.

"Ministers" in verse six is the same word for "liturgy." That means the ruler occupies a divinely appointed office, but has no religious function nor is the person necessarily religious, personally. Either way, all offices are God appointed. That's very difficult to accept and has deep-reaching implications, I understand that. We have in our government exactly what we deserve as a people today, my beloved. We desperately need a Heaven-sent revival against liberalism and false teaching. Shall we pray for that? ~

***7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.***

***8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.***

***9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

~ Did you borrow something from your neighbor or friend? Return it. Have you bought something on credit? You better make sure you're going to be able to repay the loan. Now, the debt of loving one another has already been addressed when Paul said, in the last chapter, "... *if it be possible live peaceably with one another.*" Love is a practical thing we are speaking of here; not some sentimental liberal sloppy emotion.

The sin of sex is about us everywhere, but our command is to not commit adultery. Don't tell me you love someone while you are committing adultery, because that's impossible, friends! This includes living together before marriage. You can label it whatever you want to, but it is nothing in the world except licentiousness, fornication, adultery, pure sex – and *SIN* in God's sight. God hasn't changed – and He isn't going to.

Love manifests itself through the law. You can kill a man in many ways; you don't always have to pull a trigger. You can just ruin their reputation, for example. We also have coveting listed here; how do you feel about your neighbor's new car or your co-workers recent promotion? Are there things you have – or would like to have – and wish other people didn't have? Our love can only manifest itself in these areas. We aren't under law, of course; but you can talk about love all you want to while lying and stealing and you're not a Christian – you're a hypocrite....

***10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.***

***11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.***

***12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.***

***13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.***

***14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.***

~ Paul said these things two thousand years ago; it's much more urgent today. The alarm clock is blaring - we need to wake up now. Believers have gone to sleep in the world and forgotten our responsibility of yielding our total personalities to God. This is no time for the child of God to be entangled in the things of this world. I see a whole bunch of people saying they wish the Lord would return; but they're only going to be extremely embarrassed when it does happen. How many commas will you have in your bank account? Are you using your possessions for God and His Word today? How much is God really getting from you and your stuff? You might ignore this question now, but you will answer someday.

All you are and all you have should be going to God; that's our only reasonable tithe. *All*. That's what we should be doing. The idea that Bible teachers and preachers can live like the world and then get in a pulpit and teach the Word of God is heresy. Period. If you aren't supporting the man who actually believes God and obeys God – and yet you say you are a Christian – you're just a liar! I didn't say that: God says your life does not correspond to your words. Let's wake up and live for God in our hour that He has given us. Today's "*new morality*" is the life before the flood. So many Christians are making provisions for their flesh but *NONE* whatsoever for going into His presence in that day. Let's begin to put God first by getting the Word of God out properly, correctly and completely to the entire world. It happens to be very, very important ~