



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 13:1-7
- I Peter 4:1-6
- I Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-18

IF YOU ASS-U-ME...

- Governing Authorities
- God's Ministers
- Index of Terms

SEED:

“Let every soul be **subject to the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and the **authorities that exist are appointed by God.**” Romans 13:1 NKJV

FRUIT:

“For **he is God's minister to you for good**. But **if you do evil, be afraid**; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for **he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**” Romans 13:4 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

It may not mean what you think. It certainly appears suspicious once you peek under the covers. It's just seven verses but we've

already learned just how critical a mere handful of verses can be in what we've come to appreciate as Paul's Magnum Opus—his great treatise on Christian theology and doctrine. That being emphasized, one might ask, "Why has it been universally translated and thus passed down from generation to generation that this short biblical mandate is, in context, directing God's people to subject themselves to every secular government and its representatives, irrespective of who they are, what they believe, and what they demand?" Why is it that anyone has interpreted this passage as if it is referring at all to secular governing authorities? Just peek under the covers and you will quickly discover it refers to no such thing.

I say follow the money, find out who benefits most from such an interpretation, and you will also uncover who and what is behind the following abominable interpretation. "Every governing authority, no matter what they stand for, is appointed by God and you must do what they say. Give them your money, your allegiance, and your obedience; it's the right thing to do; it's the godly thing to do!"

Maybe the only truth in interpreting this passage within this horrid perspective is that even the most heinous authoritarians are certainly permitted by God to rule, as they are ultimately raised up for His sovereign purpose and by His grand design. Their pagan leadership is not for your benefit, but is to their detriment! God

raises them up to demonstrate His power when the world looking on watches Him crush their godless rebellion.

This, alternatively, is how you ought to interpret this passage: “You should place yourself under the authority and willingly submit to and obey those who have mastered and have therefore been delegated to lead you with moral clarity, godly influence, and Holy Spirit power. These servants have been specifically and deliberately arranged by God’s sovereign authority to be in this position of leadership.” Does this in any way appear to be directing you to blindly submit to godless secular governance?

Think about it like this. If you find yourself opposing or resisting your pledge of allegiance to godly authority, you are actually fighting against God. You are refusing to accept or you are being hostile against God’s anointed leader, who He has set in place over you. Do so and you are literally wrestling against the institution of God and therefore God Himself. If you take this stance, the injuries you sustain will be self-inflicted wounds.

Again, as you approach this interpretation, consider the stark contrast between godly leadership and secular governments. Historically, secular governments are evil and oppressive, anything but God-fearing and righteous. So, if indeed Paul is writing about godly leaders to whom you must submit, then it makes complete sense that these rulers who utilize fear tactics and aim to cause

panic in those whom they rule over are not from God at all—other than His permission to let them exist. You, of course, are intrinsically expected to conduct your life in a holy, and just, and righteous manner in the sight of God. From this perspective, if you decide not to live as such, you ought to be afraid, very afraid, of these spiritual authorities placed over you by God, because they are in position to judge you.

And that cannot be taken lightly on either side of the coin. From the leader's perspective, to have come to such a position of authority that you have the right to judge others, you must have obtained a radical level of grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God. From the perspective of the one being led, to the degree that you must have reverence and a holy fear of godly leaders if you are in rebellion against God, you can also expect to be blessed beyond belief when you humbly submit to God's ways and thus to godly leadership.

Three times in the next four verses Paul hyper-emphasizes the identity and assignment of these authority figures to whom you are being admonished to follow. They bear certain qualifiers; they are God's servants, agents and champions of God, avengers and defenders of His ways. Think of them as God's superintendents, administrators, and ambassadors carrying His authority into the earth. They will appear as benevolent ministers to you if you are

living righteously for God; and conversely, they will be the executors of His judgment if you live contrary to His ways. You have no cause to fear them unless of course you are living in darkness and promoting wickedness.

Therefore! Therefore what? Because these are godly men specifically assigned by Yahweh for His Sovereign purposes, you should be in complete submission to them. And you should do so, not simply for fear of punishment, but because it is the proper thing to do, if you want to live with a clean conscience.

And because of who they are, their God-given authority, and because they are literally ministers of God, His servants and worshipers, and because they devote themselves entirely, and continuously, and steadfastly to their direct assignment from God Himself, you ought to give them tribute and support, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Don't think of this as a tax owed to a government, but instead consider this a tribute—a obligation you feel honored to pay. Consider it like what is owed as an obligation to someone you hired for a wage and how God demands you fulfill your promise to pay them what they deserve for completing a job well done. A worker is worthy of his wages being fulfilled; in other words, a worker is worthy of the entirety of the wage he was promised; that is what it means to pay.

Give back to God's ministers like you are paying off a debt. Remember, it's a tribute paid to God's servant, not a government tax. It's what you should feel obligated to offer because of their service to God and to you. And it is required of you to take this seriously and see it to its completion—its fulfillment. You are not permitted to go at this halfheartedly. Again, this entire desire to pay tribute must be based on a reverence for God and true respect for His servants. This holy fear of God might be motivated by the dread of what will come your way if you live in dishonor. But, you should rather be inspired knowing that blessings will follow, if you decide to honor and place full value on God's anointed.

This naturally leads to yet another perfect picture of how we, as earthly inhabitants, sojourners passing through this temporary land, must live like heavenly citizens, even while still operating here on earth. We will look at this in greater detail next time, but in summary this is what your witness should look like; live like this and you shall live with no fear of godly leaders: Owe no one anything except to love them and never cause harm. This is how love fulfills the law. So, wake up, time is running out. It's time to live like God demands, not in lewdness and lust, nor strife and envy. Become like the Lord Jesus Christ and never again make provisions for your lustful desires.

"Think in Bible." DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Who are the governing authorities to whom you should obey? Unfortunately, traditional Church teachings on the topic totally ignore key stipulations when identifying the rulers to whom you owe allegiance. "He is God's minister to execute His goodness and His judgment." This discriminates and differentiates to whom you ought to subject yourself; it is certainly not just to anyone simply because he holds a position of authority. God is not revealing that every governing authority is of Him and demanding we submit to all of them, without some qualifying factors. However, if you have been following the vast majority of church teachings on the subject, that is exactly what you are being taught to do. Before we blindly agree with the majority, let's take a look at a few key qualifiers.

He is God's minister: He is a servant of God inspired by the Lord to carry out His plan for His people.

He is God's arbiter of what is good: He knows inherently or intrinsically what is right. Anything good originates from God and is empowered by God through faith; nothing and no one can be good otherwise.

He is God's avenger: He is a special representative of God, an advocate, agent or champion of God and defender of His ways. He is a superintendent, administrator, or ambassador carrying God's

authority into the earth and exercising judgment on what and who is evil.

He attends continually to God's business: He devotes himself entirely, continuously, and steadfastly to his direct assignment from God.

It should be obvious that Paul is teaching that true authorities are appointed by Yahweh for the good of His people and to champion His cause. And when they are acting in that position, a minister for good, their authority and therefore their rulings are to be considered as if they are from Yahweh. If you don't submit to them, you will bring judgement on yourself as if you are rejecting God. If necessary, Yahweh uses these anointed officials to discipline His people. The choice is simple; do what is good and you will have favor with God and among His leaders; do what is evil, and you should instead be very afraid of them.

Nowhere does God command His people to submit to ungodly rulers when what is being required of them is in violation to God's will. In other words, God is not recommending ungodly obedience as a path to good citizenship. Consider Daniel's response when a decree was signed by the king forbidding prayers to Yahweh. On schedule, Daniel knelt before the Lord three times that day, as was his custom. And what about the disciples when they were ordered to stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus?

Their response was the exact opposite of subjecting themselves to the governing authorities; “If you believe it is right to listen to you above God, you are dead wrong. We will not cease speaking of the things which we have seen and heard about Christ, because that is what God wants us to do, even if you command otherwise.”

When the governing authorities are ruling in an ungodly fashion, they should be ignored, and instead, God’s people should submit to His higher authority. God’s ministers are attending to the work of God and they are commissioned to hold His people accountable. Give them the honor and respect they are due. And provide for their needs in every way necessary. And finally, do what is right because it is the right thing to do, not because you fear the consequences.

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

1. Identifying Godly Leaders

A. It may not mean what you think.

(1) Don’t Ass-u-me

(a) Leaders Assigned by God

1. “Let every soul be **subject to the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and the **authorities that exist are appointed by God.**” Romans 13:1 NKJV

2. This certainly appears suspicious once you peek under the covers.
 - a) It's just seven verses but we've already learned just how critical a mere handful of verses can be in what we've come to appreciate as [Paul's Magnum Opus](#)—his great treatise on Christian theology and doctrine.
 - b) That being emphasized, one might ask...
 - 1) "Why has it been universally translated and thus passed down from generation to generation that this short biblical mandate is, in context, directing God's people to subject themselves to every secular government and its representatives, irrespective of who they are, what they believe, and what they demand?"
 - c) Why is it that anyone has interpreted this passage as if it is referring at all to secular governing authorities?
 - 1) Just peek under the covers and you will quickly discover it refers to no such thing.
3. Follow the Money
 - a) Find out who benefits most from such an interpretation, and you will also uncover who and

what is behind the following abominable interpretation.

- 1) “Every governing authority, no matter what they stand for, is appointed by God and you must do what they say. Give them your money, your allegiance, and your obedience; it’s the right thing to do; it’s the godly thing to do!”
4. Daniel, Peter and John rejected the ruling of their governing authorities!
- a) **[Read Daniel 6]** *“Now when Daniel **KNEW THAT THE WRITING WAS SIGNED**, he went home. And in his upper room, with his **WINDOWS OPEN** toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” (Daniel 6:10) “So they answered and said before the king, “That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, **DOES NOT SHOW DUE REGARD** for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” Daniel 6:13 NKJV*
 - b) **[Read Acts 4:1-22]** *“So they [***the Sanhedrin**] called them and **COMMANDED THEM** not to*

*...speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But **Peter and John** answered and said to them, **“WHETHER IT IS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD TO LISTEN TO YOU MORE THAN TO GOD, YOU JUDGE. FOR WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD.”***

Acts 4:18-20 NKJV

- 1) [**the Sanhedrin—the highest governing authority in the Jewish legal system*] *“And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.” Acts 4:5-6 NKJV*

5. Maybe this is the only truth when interpreting this passage within this horrid perspective...
 - a) Even the most heinous authoritarians are certainly permitted by God to rule, as they are ultimately raised up for His sovereign purpose and by His grand design.
 - b) Their pagan leadership is not for your benefit, but is to their detriment!

- c) God raises them up to demonstrate His power as the world looking on watches Him crush their godless rebellion.
6. The Pharaoh, in the time of Moses, is a perfect example of how God raises up a leader to demonstrate His sovereign power:
- a) ***“But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now.”*** Exodus 9:16-18 NKJV
 - 1) This was followed by the **Plague of Hail** which resulted in Pharaoh’s confession and prayer request (it is important to note here that it is at this moment Pharaoh has indeed acknowledged that he knows Yahweh is God—he has reached the point to no return.):
 - 2) *“And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **“I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and***

*I are wicked. **Entreat the Lord**, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.”” Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV*

b) But Pharaoh returned again to the vomit of his sin:

1) *“And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, **he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart**, he and his servants.” Exodus 9:34 NKJV*

c) What follows is the **Plague of Locusts** in Exodus 10:1-20, before which the Egyptian leaders entreated Pharaoh to comply with Yahweh’s demands (v. 7).

d) Even as it seems he would do so, Yahweh sent the Locusts. This caused yet another confession that Yahweh is God and a prayer request (Pharaoh’s final prayer request before his heart is hardened to a condition beyond any further capability to repent. (See: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#))

1) *“Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, “**I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you**. Now therefore, **please forgive my sin only this once**, and*

entreat the Lord your God, that He may take away from me this death only.”” Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV

- e) Pharaoh’s heart was further hardened after which we have the **Plague of Darkness** in Exodus 10:21-29. (Learn about the descent into the darkened heart in [In the Image of God](#).)
- f) By this time Pharaoh is no longer capable of repentance. His only response to the darkness in his heart is to threaten Moses’ life. What follows is the **Death of the First Born** in Exodus 11-12.
- g) Paul wrote of this process earlier in Romans 9...
 - 1) *“So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. **For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”** Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.”* Romans 9:16-18 NKJV
 - 2) See: [Let’s Get Historical](#) (Romans 9:1-18) & [Pavlov’s Humans](#) (Romans 9:19-33)

7. This, alternatively, is how you ought to interpret Romans 13:1.
- a) “You should place yourself under the authority and willingly submit to and obey those who have mastered and have, therefore, been delegated to lead you with moral clarity, godly influence, and Holy Spirit power. These servants have been specifically and deliberately arranged by God’s sovereign authority to be in this position of leadership.”
 - b) Here are some of the qualities and character traits of the governing authorities to whom should submit:
 - 1) *“This is a faithful saying: **If a man desires the position of a bishop [an overseeing authority], he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to***

rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. **Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside**, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV (See I Timothy 3:1-13)

2) “Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity**. Till I come, **give *attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine**. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all**. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” I Timothy 4:12-16 NKJV

3) It is recommend you read all of I Timothy and Titus for a comprehensive picture of the

qualities and character traits of the governing authorities to whom you should submit.

c) **Why **attention to reading (from I Timothy 4:13)?***

1) ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*** II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

d) **Servant Leaders: the true sign of legitimate governing authorities**

1) ***“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that **the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*****” Matthew 20:25-28 NKJV

8. Does this in any way appear to be directing you to blindly submit to godless secular governance?
- a) Returning to pagan ways and influence is not an option for God's people!
 - 1) *“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh **has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you **do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **For this reason the gospel was preached** also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”*** I Peter 4:1-6 NKJV
 - b) Bad company corrupts good morals...

1) *“Do not be deceived: **“Evil company corrupts good habits.”** Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”* I Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV

c) Let godly leaders be who sharpen you...

1) *“As **iron sharpens iron**, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”* Proverbs 27:17
NKJV

(2) Proper Perspective

(a) God’s Leaders of Choice

1. **“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.** Romans 13:2 NKJV

2. Think about it like this:

- a) If you find yourself opposing or resisting your pledge of allegiance to godly authority, you are actually fighting against God.
- b) You are refusing to accept or you are being hostile against God’s anointed leader, who He has set in place over you.
- c) Do so and you are literally wrestling against the institution of God and therefore God Himself.

3. You can't win a fight with God... resisting God is pointless!

a) If you take this stance, the injuries you sustain are essentially self-inflicted wounds.

1) **Paul on the road to Damascus:** *“As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then **he fell to the ground**, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**” {8} Then Saul arose from the ground, and when **his eyes were opened he saw no one.** But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”*
Acts 9:3-5, 8-9 NKJV

2) **Jacob wrestles with God:** *“Then Jacob was left alone; and **a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.** Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, **He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out***

of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

Genesis 32:24-26 NKJV

(3) Godly Leader vs. Secular Governance

(a) As you approach this interpretation, consider the stark contrast between godly leadership and secular governments.

1. "For **rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good**, and you will have praise from the same." Romans 13:3 NKJV
2. Historically, secular governments are evil and oppressive, anything but God-fearing and righteous.
 - a) If indeed Paul is writing about godly leaders to whom you must submit, then it makes complete sense that these rulers who utilize fear tactics and aim to cause panic in those whom they rule over are not from God at all—other than His permission to let them exist.
3. You are intrinsically expected to conduct your life in a holy, and just, and righteous manner in the sight of God.

- a) From this perspective, if you decide not to live as such, you ought to be afraid, very afraid, of these spiritual authorities placed over you by God, because they are in position to judge you.
- b) Governance of believers over believers...
 - 1) *“For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? **Do you not judge those who are inside?** But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”” I Corinthians 5:12-13 NKJV*
- c) And judgment comes first to God’s people by God, not secular governing authorities...
 - 1) *“For the time has come **for judgment to begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now **“If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”** Therefore **let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.**” I Peter 4:17-19 NKJV*
- d) As such, how ought you live?

1) *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**”* II Peter 3:11 NKJV

4. This cannot be taken lightly on either perspective.

a) From the **leader’s perspective**, to have come to such a position of authority that you have the right to judge others, you must have obtained a radical level of grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God (complete obedience).

1) *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**”*
II Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV

b) From the **perspective of the one being led**, to the degree that you must have reverence and a holy fear of godly leaders, if you are in rebellion against

God, you can also expect to be blessed beyond belief when you humbly submit to God's ways and thus to godly leadership.

c) Blessings and Curses (Old Testament)

- 1) ***“the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.”*** Deuteronomy 11:27-28 NKJV
- 2) ***““Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:”*** Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV (See blessings: Deuteronomy 28:1-14)
- 3) ***““But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His***

*statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:***” Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV (See curses: Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

d) Blessings and Curses (New Testament)

1) *“But He said, “More than that, **blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**””*
Luke 11:28 NKJV

2) *““Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his **house on the rock**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his **house on the sand**: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.””*
Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV

GOD'S MINISTERS

2. Paradigm Shift

A. Who are God's Ministers?

(1) Ministers for Good!

(a) Three times in the next four verses Paul hyper-emphasizes the identity and assignment of these authority figures to whom you are being admonished to follow.

1. "For **he is God's minister to you for good**. But if you **do evil, be afraid**; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for **he is God's minister**, an avenger to **execute wrath on him who practices evil**." Romans 13:4 NKJV

2. God's ministers bear certain qualifiers:

a) They are God's servants, agents and champions of God, avengers and defenders of His ways.

1) "*Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, **let him be your servant***." Matthew 20:26 NKJV

b) Always ready to defend the faith!

1) "*And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their*

*threats, nor be troubled.” But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you**, with **meekness** and fear; having **a good conscience**, that when they defame you as evildoers, **those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed**. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” 1 Peter 3:13-17 NKJV*

- c) Think of them as God’s superintendents, administrators, and ambassadors carrying His authority into the earth.
 - 1) *“Therefore, from now on, **we regard no one according to the flesh**. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling the***

world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:16-21 NKJV

3. Benevolent Ministers and Executors of Judgment

a) They will appear as **benevolent ministers** to you if you are living righteously for God.

1) *"Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. And when you go into a household, greet it. **If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.**"* Matthew 10:11-13 NKJV

b) Conversely, they will be the **executors of His judgment** if you live contrary to His ways.

1) *"And **whoever will not receive you nor hear your words**, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off the dust from your feet.**"*

*Assuredly, I say to you, **it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment** than for that city!” Matthew 10:14-15 NKJV*

- c) What authority do godly leaders possess?
 - 1) *“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**”” John 20:22-23 NKJV*
- d) You have no cause to fear them unless of course you are living in darkness and promoting wickedness.
 - 1) *“If anyone **sees his brother sinning a sin** which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” I John 5:16-17 NKJV (See: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#))*

(2) Do the Right Thing

(a) Therefore what?

1. “Therefore you must **be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.**” Romans 13:5 NKJV
2. Because these are godly men specifically assigned by Yahweh for His Sovereign purposes, you should be in complete submission to them.
 - a) And you should do so, not simply for fear of punishment, but because it is the proper thing to do, if you want to live with a clean conscience.
 - b) We are redeemed for an eternity through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, so how can’t we desire to serve those who serve Him!
 - 1) **For conscience’ sake:** *“There is also an ***antitype [in context: the great flood]** which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ,**”* 1 Peter 3:21 NKJV
 - 2) **Note: the waters of baptism is an antitype to the waters of the flood because the waters of baptism is a sign of the cleansing of our sins unto life, and the waters of the flood cleansed the Earth of sin unto death.*

c) We did not choose Him; He chose us, so how can't we desire to serve those who serve Him!

1) *"**You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **These things I command you, that you love one another.**"* John 15:16-17
NKJV

d) We Love God because He first loved us, so how can't we desire to serve those who serve Him!

1) *"Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**"* I John 4:7-11 NKJV

(3) Shifting perspective on what it is you are paying...

- (a) Because of this you also pay taxes. What taxes and why?
1. “For because of this you also **pay** taxes, for **they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing.**” Romans 13:6 NKJV
 2. Because of who they are... they have God-given authority because they are literally ministers of God.
 - a) They are His servants and worshipers, and they devote themselves entirely, and continuously, and steadfastly to their direct assignment from God Himself. You ought to pay them tribute and support, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.
 - b) In fact, His servants are worthy of double honor who labor in word and deed.
 - 1) “*Let **the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.** For the Scripture says [Deuteronomy 25:4], “**You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,**” and, “**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**”” | Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV*
 - c) Paid for ministry:

1) *“Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: **Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife**, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I **who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?** Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? **For it is written in the law of Moses [Deuteronomy 25:4], “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.”** Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?" |

Corinthians 9:1-11 NKJV

3. Don't think of this as a tax owed to a government, but instead consider this a tribute—a obligation you feel honored to pay.

a) Consider it like what is owed as an obligation to someone you hired for a wage and how God demands you fulfill your promise to pay them what they deserve for completing a job well done.

1) *““You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates. **Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it**, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the Lord, **and it be sin to you.**”*

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 NKJV

b) What happens if you withhold a wage?

1) *“**Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and*

*their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. **Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.** You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you."*

James 5:1-6 NKJV

- c) A worker is worthy of his wages being fulfilled; in other words, a worker is worthy of **the entirety** of the wage he was promised.
- d) A worker worthy of his **FULL wages**: that is literally what pay means, "*because of this you also **pay** taxes.*" Offer the entirety of your tribute!
 - 1) "*For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**"*" I Timothy 5:18 NKJV
 - 2) **Pay Taxes Meaning**: you pay; end, finish, fulfill, accomplish, complete, execute, conclude,

discharge, to bring to the end—the FULL
PAYMENT TO THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY!

- e) This full tribute is the same word used when Y'shua was speaking of **fulfilling** the Law and the Prophets in Matthew 5:17
 - 1) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill** [complete, bring to fullness].”* Matthew 5:17 NKJV
- f) The complete wages must be paid in a timely manner.
 - 1) *““You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates. **Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it**, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the Lord, and it be sin to you.”* Deuteronomy 24:14-15 NKJV
 - 2) *“**Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.** Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and*

come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you." Proverbs 3:27-28 NKJV

(4) Render what is Due

(a) Give to God's ministers like you are paying off a debt.

1. **"Render therefore to all their due: taxes** to whom taxes are due, **customs** to whom customs, **fear** to whom fear, **honor** to whom honor." Romans 13:7 NKJV

2. Again, this is a tribute paid to God's servant, not a tax owed to the government.

a) It's what you should feel obligated to offer because of their service to God and to you.

b) It is required of you to take this seriously and see it to its completion—its fulfillment.

c) You are not permitted to go at this halfheartedly.

d) Your desire to pay tribute must be based on a reverence for God and true respect for His servants.

e) Give with a cheerful heart not from compulsion...

1) *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of***

necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” II Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV

- f) Motivation: This holy fear of God might be motivated by the dread of what will come your way if you live in dishonor.
 - 1) *““And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, **but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him,** to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,” Deuteronomy 10:12 NKJV*
 - 2) *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all [his entire duty].** For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV*
- g) Motivation: You should rather be inspired knowing that blessings will follow, if you decide to honor and place full value on God’s anointed.

1) *“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”* II Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV

h) Give and it will be given back to you in abundance....

1) *“Give, and it will be given to you: **good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over** will be put into your bosom. For with **the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**”* Luke 6:38 NKJV

i) Submit to godly authorities; they are indeed appointed by God—and take care of their needs in every way, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

1) *“Let every soul be **subject to the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except***

from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." Romans 13:1 NKJV

2) "*Render therefore to all their due...*" Romans 13:7 NKJV

INDEX OF TERMS

3. Words Matter

A. What did Paul intend by what he was saying?

(1) Key Words Explored from the Greek for Clarity

(a) "Let every soul be ⁽¹⁾**subject to** ⁽²⁾**the governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and the **authorities that exist are** ⁽³⁾**appointed by God.**"
Romans 13:1 NKJV

1. **Subject to:** must submit himself; to place or rank under, to subject, to obey; I submit, put myself into subjection.
2. **Governing authorities:** privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, or mastery, delegated influence, power to act, authority especially: moral authority, influence, spiritual power and hence of an earthly power.

3. **Appointed by:** have been appointed; to arrange in an orderly manner; assign or dispose; to draw up in order, arrange; determine, appoint.
- (b) “Therefore whoever **resists the** ⁽¹⁾**authority resists** ⁽²⁾**the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will **bring judgment on themselves**. Romans 13:2 NKJV
1. **Authority:** privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, or mastery, delegated influence, power to act, authority especially: moral authority, influence, spiritual power and hence of an earthly power.
 2. **Ordinance of God:** has set in place; Ordaining, disposition, arrangement, institution
- (c) “For **rulers are not** ⁽¹⁾**a terror to** ⁽²⁾**good** ⁽³⁾**works, but to evil**. Do you **want to be unafraid of the** ⁽²⁾**authority? Do what is** ⁽²⁾**good**, and you will have praise from the same.” Romans 13:3 NKJV
1. **Terror:** fear, alarm; the object or cause of fear, reverence, respect, fright; panic flight.
 2. **Good:** intrinsically good, good in nature, good whether it be seen to be so or not.
 3. **Works:** conduct, toil, an act, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

(d) “For **he is God’s** ⁽¹⁾**minister to you for good.** But if you **do evil, be afraid;** for he does not bear the sword in ⁽²⁾**vain;** for **he is God’s** ⁽¹⁾**minister,** an ⁽³⁾**avenger** to **execute wrath on him who practices evil.**”Romans 13:4 NKJV

1. **Minister:** servant, an attendant, specially, a Christian teacher and pastor, administrator.
2. **Vain:** Without a cause, purpose; purposelessly, for nothing, without reason.
3. **Avenger:** an agent; carrying justice out, a punisher; exacting penalty from, avenging; a special advocate, champion.

(e) “Therefore you must **be subject, not only because of** ⁽¹⁾**wrath but also for** ⁽²⁾**conscience’** sake.” Romans 13:5 NKJV

1. **Wrath:** to avoid punishment.
2. **Conscience:** a persisting notion, co-perception, moral consciousness.

(f) “For because of this you also ⁽¹⁾**pay** ⁽²⁾**taxes,** for **they are God’s** ⁽³⁾**ministers** ⁽⁴⁾**attending continually to this very thing.**” Romans 13:6 NKJV

1. **Pay:** you pay; end, finish, fulfill, accomplish, complete, execute, conclude, discharge, to bring to the end, aim, purpose.
 2. **Taxes:** a tribute
 3. **Ministers:** servants, public servant, a functionary in the Temple or Gospel, or a worshipper or benefactor; an official character; of priests and Levites.
 4. **Attending continually:** who devote themselves to persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon; to attend constantly.
- (g) “⁽¹⁾**Render** therefore to all ⁽²⁾**their due:** ⁽³⁾**taxes** to whom taxes are due, ⁽⁴⁾**customs** to whom customs, ⁽⁵⁾**fear** to whom fear, ⁽⁶⁾**honor** to whom honor.” Romans 13:7 NKJV
1. **Render:** Pay, to give away, to give up, give back, return, restore, return.
 2. **Their due:** you owe, a debt, a duty, what is due, indebtedness, a sum owed, obligation.
 3. **Taxes:** a tribute
 4. **Customs:** revenue (same as “you pay” in verse 6) end, finish, fulfill, accomplish, complete, execute,

conclude, discharge, to bring to the end, aim, purpose.

5. **Fear:** respect (same as “terror” in verse 3) alarm; the object or cause of fear, reverence, respect, fright; panic flight.
6. **Honor:** a price, a value or valuing, money paid, or valuables; by analogy, esteem, or the dignity itself.

Summary: GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

1. Identifying Godly Leaders

A. It may not mean what you think.

(1) Don't Ass-u-me

(a) Leaders Assigned by God

1. This certainly appears suspicious once you peek under the covers.

a) It's just seven verses but we've already learned just how critical a mere handful of verses can be in what we've come to appreciate as [Paul's Magnum Opus](#)—his great treatise on Christian theology and doctrine.

b) That being emphasized, one might ask...

1) “Why has it been universally translated and thus passed down from generation to generation that

this short biblical mandate is, in context, directing God's people to subject themselves to every secular government and its representatives, irrespective of who they are, what they believe, and what they demand?"

c) Why is it that anyone has interpreted this passage as if it is referring at all to secular governing authorities?

1) Just peek under the covers and you will quickly discover it refers to no such thing.

2. Follow the Money

a) Find out who benefits most from such an interpretation, and you will also uncover who and what is behind the following abominable interpretation.

1) "Every governing authority, no matter what they stand for, is appointed by God and you must do what they say. Give them your money, your allegiance, and your obedience; it's the right thing to do; it's the godly thing to do!"

3. Daniel, Peter and John rejected the ruling of their governing authorities!

- a) **[Read Daniel 6]** *“Now when Daniel **KNEW THAT THE WRITING WAS SIGNED**, he went home. And in his upper room, with his **WINDOWS OPEN** toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God.*
 - b) **[Read Acts 4:1-22]** *“**WHETHER IT IS RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD TO LISTEN TO YOU MORE THAN TO GOD, YOU JUDGE. FOR WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD.***
4. Maybe this is the only truth when interpreting this passage within this horrid perspective...
- a) Even the most heinous authoritarians are certainly permitted by God to rule, as they are ultimately raised up for His sovereign purpose and by His grand design.
 - b) Their pagan leadership is not for your benefit, but is to their detriment!
 - c) God raises them up to demonstrate His power as the world looking on watches Him crush their godless rebellion.

5. The Pharaoh, in the time of Moses, is a perfect example of how God raises up a leader to demonstrate His sovereign power:
- a) This was followed by the **Plague of Hail** which resulted in Pharaoh's confession and prayer request (it is important to note here that it is at this moment Pharaoh has indeed acknowledged that he knows Yahweh is God—he has reached the point to no return.):
 - b) But Pharaoh returned again to the vomit of his sin:
 - c) What follows is the **Plague of Locusts** in Exodus 10:1-20, before which the Egyptian leaders entreated Pharaoh to comply with Yahweh's demands (v. 7).
 - d) Even as it seems he would do so, Yahweh sent the Locusts. This caused yet another confession that Yahweh is God and a prayer request (Pharaoh's final prayer request before his heart is hardened to a condition beyond any further capability to repent. (See: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)))
 - e) Pharaoh's heart was further hardened after which we have the **Plague of Darkness** in Exodus

10:21-29. (Learn about the descent into the darkened heart in [In the Image of God.](#))

f) By this time Pharaoh is no longer capable of repentance. His only response to the darkness in his heart is to threaten Moses' life. What follows is the **Death of the First Born** in Exodus 11-12.

g) Paul wrote of this process earlier in Romans 9...

1) See: [Let's Get Historical](#) (Romans 9:1-18) & [Pavlov's Humans](#) (Romans 9:19-33)

6. This, alternatively, is how you ought to interpret Romans 13:1.

a) "You should place yourself under the authority and willingly submit to and obey those who have mastered and have, therefore, been delegated to lead you with moral clarity, godly influence, and Holy Spirit power. These servants have been specifically and deliberately arranged by God's sovereign authority to be in this position of leadership."

b) Here is are some of the qualities and character traits of the governing authorities to whom should submit:

- 1) It is recommend you read all of I Timothy and Titus for a comprehensive picture of the qualities and character traits of the governing authorities to whom you should submit.
- c) **Why **attention to reading (from I Timothy 4:13)?***
 - 1) ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*****
 - d) Servant Leaders: the true sign of legitimate governing authorities.
7. Does this in any way appear to be directing you to blindly submit to godless secular governance?
 - a) Returning to pagan ways and influence is not an option for God’s people!
 - b) Bad company corrupts good morals...
 - c) Let godly leaders be who sharpen you...
- (2) Proper Perspective
 - (a) God’s Leaders of Choice
 1. Think about it like this:

- a) If you find yourself opposing or resisting your pledge of allegiance to godly authority, you are actually fighting against God.
 - b) You are refusing to accept or you are being hostile against God's anointed leader, who He has set in place over you.
 - c) Do so and you are literally wrestling against the institution of God and therefore God Himself.
2. You can't win a fight with God... resisting God is pointless!
- a) If you take this stance, the injuries you sustain are essentially self-inflicted wounds.
 - 1) **Paul on the road to Damascus:** Acts 9:3-5, 8-9
 - 2) **Jacob wrestles with God:** Genesis 32:24-26
- (3) Godly Leader vs. Secular Governance
- (a) As you approach this interpretation, consider the stark contrast between godly leadership and secular governments.
 - 1. Historically, secular governments are evil and oppressive, anything but God-fearing and righteous.
 - a) If indeed Paul is writing about godly leaders to whom you must submit, then it makes complete sense that these rulers who utilize fear tactics and

aim to cause panic in those whom they rule over are not from God at all—other than His permission to let them exist.

2. You are intrinsically expected to conduct your life in a holy, and just, and righteous manner in the sight of God.
 - a) From this perspective, if you decide not to live as such, you ought to be afraid, very afraid, of these spiritual authorities placed over you by God, because they are in position to judge you.
 - b) Governance of believers over believers...
 - 1) ***Do you not judge those who are inside?***
 - c) And judgment comes first to God's people by God, not secular governing authorities...
 - d) As such, how ought you live?
3. This cannot be taken lightly on either perspective.
 - a) From the **leader's perspective**, to have come to such a position of authority that you have the right to judge others, you must have obtained a radical level of grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God (complete obedience).
 - b) From the **perspective of the one being led**, to the degree that you must have reverence and a holy

fear of godly leaders, if you are in rebellion against God, you can also expect to be blessed beyond belief when you humbly submit to God's ways and thus to godly leadership.

- c) Blessings and Curses (Old Testament)
 - 1) (See blessings: Deuteronomy 28:1-14)
 - 2) (See curses: Deuteronomy 28:15-68)
- d) Blessings and Curses (New Testament)
 - 1) (See Matthew 7:24-27)

Summary: GOD'S MINISTERS

2. Paradigm Shift

A. Who are God's Ministers?

(1) Ministers for Good!

(a) Three times in the next four verses Paul hyper-emphasizes the identity and assignment of these authority figures to whom you are being admonished to follow.

1. God's ministers bear certain qualifiers:

- a) They are God's servants, agents and champions of God, avengers and defenders of His ways.
- b) Always ready to defend the faith!

c) Think of them as God's superintendents, administrators, and ambassadors carrying His authority into the earth.

2. Benevolent Ministers and Executors of Judgment

a) They will appear as **benevolent ministers** to you if you are living righteously for God.

b) Conversely, they will be the **executors of His judgment** if you live contrary to His ways.

c) What authority do godly leaders possess?

d) You have no cause to fear them unless of course you are living in darkness and promoting wickedness. (See: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#))

(2) Do the Right Thing

(a) Therefore what?

1. Because these are godly men specifically assigned by Yahweh for His Sovereign purposes, you should be in complete submission to them.

a) And you should do so, not simply for fear of punishment, but because it is the proper thing to do, if you want to live with a clean conscience.

b) We are redeemed for an eternity through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, so how can't we desire to serve those who serve Him!

- 1) **For conscience' sake**
 - 2) *Note: the waters of baptism is an antitype to the waters of the flood because the waters of baptism is a sign of the cleansing of our sins unto life, and the waters of the flood cleansed the Earth of sin unto death.
 - c) We did not choose Him; He chose us, so how can't we desire to serve those who serve Him!
 - d) We Love God because He first loved us, so how can't we desire to serve those who serve Him!
- (3) Shifting perspective on what it is you are paying...
- (a) Because of this you also pay taxes. What taxes and why?
 1. Because of who they are... they have God-given authority because they are literally ministers of God.
 - a) They are His servants and worshipers, and they devote themselves entirely, and continuously, and steadfastly to their direct assignment from God Himself. You ought to pay them tribute and support, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.
 - b) In fact, His servants are worthy of double honor who labor in word and deed.
 - c) It's okay to be paid for ministry.

2. Don't think of this as a tax owed to a government, but instead consider this a tribute—a obligation you feel honored to pay.
 - a) Consider it like what is owed as an obligation to someone you hired for a wage and how God demands you fulfill your promise to pay them what they deserve for completing a job well done.
 - b) What happens if you withhold a wage?
 - 1) ***Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!***
 - c) A worker is worthy of his wages being fulfilled; in other words, a worker is worthy of **the entirety** of the wage he was promised.
 - d) A worker worthy of his **FULL wages**: that is literally what pay means, *“because of this you also **pay** taxes.”* Offer the entirety of your tribute!
 - 1) **Pay Taxes Meaning:** you pay; end, finish, fulfill, accomplish, complete, execute, conclude, discharge, to bring to the end—the FULL PAYMENT TO THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY!
 - e) This full tribute is the same word used when Y'shua was speaking of **fulfilling** the Law and the Prophets in Matthew 5:17

- f) The complete wages must be paid in a timely manner.

(4) Render what is Due

- (a) Give to God's ministers like you are paying off a debt.
 - 1. Again, this is a tribute paid to God's servant, not a tax owed to the government.
 - a) It's what you should feel obligated to offer because of their service to God and to you.
 - b) It is required of you to take this seriously and see it to its completion—its fulfillment.
 - c) You are not permitted to go at this halfheartedly.
 - d) Your desire to pay tribute must be based on a reverence for God and true respect for His servants.
 - e) Give with a cheerful heart not from compulsion...
 - f) Motivation: This holy fear of God might be motivated by the dread of what will come your way if you live in dishonor.
 - g) Motivation: You should rather be inspired knowing that blessings will follow, if you decide to honor and place full value on God's anointed.
 - h) Give and it will be given back to you in abundance....

- i) Submit to godly authorities; they are indeed appointed by God—and take care of their needs in every way, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” Romans 13:1 NKJV**
 - A. Why is it that it has interpreted that this passage is referring to secular governing authorities?
 - B. How do Daniel, Peter and John prove that it is necessary to reject the rulings of our governing authorities at times? (See: Daniel 6:10-13; Acts 4:1-22)
 - C. Use Pharaoh to prove why God allows evil leaders to be in power. (See: Exodus 9-12; Romans 9:16-18)
 - D. Describe the qualities and character traits of the governing authorities to whom should submit. (See: See I Timothy 3:1-13; 4:12-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 20:25-28)
 - E. Why is submitting to pagan ways and influence not an option for God’s people? (See: I Peter 4:1-6; I Corinthians 15:33-34; Proverbs 27:17)

2. **“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:2 NKJV**
 - A. Use the following narratives to prove that resisting God is futile, and how God is willing to inflict a wound if necessary. (Acts 9; Genesis 32:22-30)
3. **“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.” Romans 13:3 NKJV**
 - A. How does this verse prove that the rulers Paul is referring to are Godly? (See: I Corinthians 5:12-13; I Peter 4:17-19)
 - B. Describe the requirements of both the leaders and the ones being led. (II Corinthians 10:3-6; Deuteronomy 11:27-28; 28:1-68; Luke 11:28; Matthew 7:24-27)
4. **“For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”Romans 13:4 NKJV**
 - A. It is abundantly clear that the leaders to whom Paul is referring are ministers of God. Use the following passages to describe some of their ministry duties. (Matthew 20:26; I Peter 3:13-17; II Corinthians 5:16-21)

B. Godly leaders must act as both benevolent ministers and executors of judgment. Use the following passages to describe both aspects of their responsibilities. (Matthew 10:11-15; John 20:22-23; I John 5:16-17)

5. “Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.” Romans 13:5 NKJV

A. Because these are godly men specifically assigned by Yahweh for His Sovereign purposes, you should be in complete submission to them. Use the following passages to support why that is. (I Peter 3:21; John 15:16-17; I John 4:7-11)

6. “For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing.” Romans 13:6 NKJV

A. What exactly does it mean to pay taxes in this verse? (See sermon note to help.) *Hint: Don’t think of this as a tax owed to a government, but instead consider this a tribute—a obligation you feel honored to pay.*

B. His servants and worshipers devote themselves entirely, continuously, and steadfastly to their direct assignment from God Himself. Why ought you willingly pay them tribute and support, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually? (See: I Timothy 5:17-18; I Corinthians 9:1-11)

7. “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.” Romans 13:7 NKJV

- A. Again, this is a tribute paid to God’s servant, not a tax owed to the government. It’s what you should feel obligated to offer because of their service to God and to you. Describe the various healthy motivations that should make you feel obligated to submit to and support godly leaders. (See: II Corinthians 9:6-8; Deuteronomy 10:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Luke 6:38)