



Church and State

- **Session 40 of ?**
- **MEN to MEN Ministries**
- A Bible Study about a letter written to the Church in Rome
- Romans 13:1-7 the Attitude of Authority

Have this attitude in yourselves which is also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.”

Philippians 2:5

Romans 13:1-7

3

- 1) Every **person** is to be **subject** to the governing authorities. For there is no **authority** except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
- 2) Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the **ordinance** of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
- 3) For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same.
- 4) For it is a **servant** of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an **avenger** who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
- 5) Therefore, it is necessary to be subjected, not only because of **wrath**, but also for the sake of conscience.
- 6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, **devoting** themselves to this very thing.
- 7) Pay to all what is due them: **tax** to whom tax is due; **custom** to whom custom; **respect** to whom respect; **honor** to whom honor.

Accepted facts based upon this scripture

4

- We are citizens of this world
- We are citizens of the Kingdom of God
- The authorities are to be accepted with a peaceful attitude
- Our governments and authorities do not necessarily follow God's will.
- We live with two passports and we must live in both.

Historical Context of Paul

5

- The rule of Rome in Paul's writing 64-68
- Emperor's commands were accepted as acts of God
- Caesar Nero delegated his God like authority to others
- Oppression was enforced by Worship, Military, Distributed authority, and Taxes

Christian Justification of resistance to authority

6

- Obey God over man
- Natural Law of God
- Distinguishing between the legitimate and illegitimate use of authority
- Local interpretations over higher
- There are limits to human authority and they will be judged by God
- The Kingdom of God is soon and Christian duty is to proclaim that fact.

The Christian response to Government

- The rule of government
- What if we don't agree with authority?
- Our attitude determines reaction.
- Our responsibility to authority.
 - Taxes
 - Custom
 - Respect
 - Honor