

- So far we have made it through the deep theological section of the book of Romans.
- And then a few weeks ago we completed the dispensational part
- Now we are in the final section of the book, which is the practical section.
 - Last week Josh presented on chapter 12, the role a Christ follower has within the church
 - Here in chapter 13 Paul addresses the role a Christ follower has in society.
 - The Christian relationship with governing authorities
 - And the Christian relationship with others – mainly outside the church.
- Pray
 - ◇ Our struggle with authority ...the root is or selfish egoism
 - ◇ Bring us wisdom and patience to see all things and people with your eyes.
- Before we jump this let's get some Historical perspective
 - It is very likely that Paul wrote this book:
 - In the city of Corinth on his third missionary journey around 57 AD
 - This is because of the list of friends we get at the end of the book
 - And two early manuscripts had notes in the footer of the end of the documents noting that it was written in Corinth.
 - Recall acts 18 when God brought Paul the companionship of Aquila and Priscilla.
 - Claudius had kicked Jews out of Rome,
 - Tiberius Claudius Caesar likely made this decree between 51 – 54 [Gill]
 - Nero Claudius Caesar was seated as emperor in 54
 - It is likely the decree had been lifted and thus this letter from Paul addresses both Jews and Gentiles
 - Apparently the Jews had been causing uprisings and Claudius was tired of it.
 - For he was quite accepting of the Jews and Jewish customs through much of his reign.
 - If you know anything about Jewish history this is not so unusual.
 - They obviously struggled with the idea of being governed
 - Due to Gods promise to them of course.
 - I have to think that this is one of the reasons that Paul teaches respect and not rebellion
 - Also, Paul is presenting a new view in light of Jesus teaching of love.

Now look, I am no fan of authority, I think because most of the time the authority that we are faced with is inadequate, selfish or corrupt. I've worked with some pretty poor mngmnt.

⊗ So it is very important to learn God's view on the matter. Trusting that Paul is the clear mouth piece of Gods will he writes:

Rom 13:1 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.

- You must have this clear in your mind – it is paramount to this whole subject.
 - Often people want to glorify or demonize leaders.
 - Look, anyway they may hold themselves, or be presented they are just fallen humans just like you and I.
 - Pray for them

1Tim 2:1-2, we read: “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and for all who are in high positions; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.”

- But be very clear, as God said to Pharaoh through Moses,

Exo 9:16 ... for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.
- And what God said to Nebuchadnezzar

Dan 4:25 You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.
- But be very clear, God has got it under control. His plan will be executed and it won't look like you planned it.

Rom 13:2-3 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **Rom 13:3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **Rom 13:4** 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. **Rom 13:5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid **God's wrath** but also for the sake of conscience.

- The first thing that comes to your mind is; “But what of rulers that are a terror and unGodly?”
 - The Taliban, Moa Tse Tong, Hitler, Stalin, Nero, Pharaoh ... my, there is a long list.
 - Herod had John the Baptist head cut off for criticizing Herod's marital escapades
 - And Jesus said, Mt 11:11 “...among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.”
 - So clearly his criticism does not fall into the definition of “resisting authorities”
 - Caiaphas – the Jewish leaders chanted for Jesus crucifixion...
 - Jesus' actions against the Jewish authority must not fall in this category either.

- If you happen to look at a few of these leaders and how God uses them in history.
 - It is really quite remarkable
 - The persecution of Nero showed the world the strength in the faith in God and spread Christianity
 - The persecution of Hitler aligned the western world in compassion for the Jews which brought about the prophesied reestablishment of the nation of Israel.
 - God uses all things for the good of those who Love Him [Rom 8:28]
 - Don't put your faith in man; [Psalm 146:3] [Mat 24:37]
 - The perspective of Gods kingdom, temporary and a tool for Gods purposes
- This scripture fist seems contradictory to other scriptures. "...rulers are not a terror to good conduct"
 - Compared to Jn the B. speaking against king Herod, [Act 4] Peter defying the Jewish leaders saying he will not stop speaking of Jesus.
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refusing to bow the Neb. golden idol...many more.
- I first came across this with Jesus prayer, [Jn 17:11] "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one." [NIV]
 - Yet I had read "Fox's book of martyrs" and they all died most pretty gruesome deaths
 - I came to realize however that none of them lost their faith.
 - Jesus was praying spiritually not earthly.
- I think it is much the same way here.
 - Paul is saying, earthly – practically
Follow the rules of the leaders, no matter how silly they may be.
 - It goes without saying; spiritually obey God.
- However we are in a strange governmental environment that is not addressed.
 - We are called to participate in the government
 - As a matter of fact, the governing class is in service to us.
 - For us to be subject to the government means we are supposed to voice our opinion.
 - As, James Garfield (20th President – Mid 1800s) Said:

"Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their congress. If that body be ignorant reckless or corrupt it is because the people tolerate ignorance recklessness and corruption. If be intelligent brave and pure it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. If the next centennial does not find us as a great nation, it will be because those who represent the enterprise the culture the morality of the nation do not aid in control in the political forces."

- But I do aid in the control of the politics of this country.
- But I say how often I have heard this argument.
 - Though candidate Z is the candidate that best aligns with the Lord they have no chance of winning so I must vote for candidate B, the lesser of the evils.
 - For if I throw my vote away with candidate Z, candidate A will possibly win.
- I'd like to dispel the argument of voting for the least evil.
 - Tell me when did God ever teach us to compromise what is right in His eyes to the often more logical pattern of the world?
 - You do what is right and let God do the rest.
 - For it is mans worldly logic that has brought us to a ignorant, reckless and corrupt congress.
- We are responsibility to knowledge that we have and we need to be knowledgeable about the responsibility we have been given.
 - Who are you in service of, the Lord or men...or yourself?

⊗ Don't over think it, vote for what is rightouse in God's eyes, leave it to God and have a clear conscience
As Paul wrote...continuing in vs. 5

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

- Have a clear conscience of your actions; don't second guess your choice.
- God's wrath translational issue.
 - [NIV] possible punishment
 - [NET] wrath of the authorities
 - [ASV, NASB, KJV] wrath
 - [ESV] chooses to translate it as God's wrath.
- The language leaves it up to interpretation and thus the interpreters take the liberty given to them to interpret for us.
- Literal read is: "...not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake."
- I'll leave it up to you to study whose wrath it is, the authorities or Gods.
- Continuing on...

Rom 13:6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

Rom 13:7 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.

- Again this sure seems as an idealistic model that Paul is presenting.
 - Rulers are not a terror to good conduct
 - Authorities are ministers of God
 - Remember however in light of what we discussed just a little earlier...
 - Regardless of their knowledge God is using them in His plan.
 - Sure it's idealistic, but so is God. His ideals are quite high.
- Which means God would like our focus on the spiritual world not so much the monetary.
- Your mind should be less on Taxes and debt and more on Gods will.
 - This can be a difficult subject in today's culture.
 - Give to Caesar what is Caesar's give to God what is God's. [Mt 22:21, Mk 12:17, Lk 20:25]
 - Don't be a slave to debt...

Rom 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- Love the fulfillment of the law...interesting...Jesus fulfilled the law.
 - **Mat 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."
- This is a really interesting idea that Love is the fulfilling of the law
 - Here is the list of commandments concerning others, even throw in the ones not listed.
 - And Love fulfills them all.
 - Now this **is** of course if you have the definition of love correct
 - It is not merely an emotion. "An sacrifice designed for the benefit of another"
 - Let's take a look at what Paul wrote in the previous chapter that led into this issue

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **Rom 12:19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **Rom 12:20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."
Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 - This leads us into chapter 13 and is a clear guide to evangelism.
 - *Story of the sun and wind challenge to remove a man's coat*
 - Peace and love is more powerful than violence.
 - Depends on your Goal. To convert or to manipulate.

Motivation to Godly Conduct

Rom 13:11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Rom 13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- As a motivating element Paul is making clear that “salvation is near” so prepare.
 - Get up from our slumber in the world and open our eyes to the spiritual
- What does he mean “salvation is near”
 - personal reign of Christ on the earth – The Millennia
 - Deliverance from “persecutions.” – Heavenly home.
 - Peace in sanctification.
- Prepare with the “Armor of God”
- **Eph 6:11-18**
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

- Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth,
 - Belt carries equipment = Utility belt for construction and military
 - All your **tools** are carried in Truth
- and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
 - The biggest target is the torso the breast plate is its protection.
 - The best protection from sin, temptations, is to do what is right, be righteous, put on...
- and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
 - How difficult it is to travel without shoes.
 - Travel with the gospel. Knowledge of Gods plan brings peace to all we encounter.
- In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
 - Faith is the guard against attack
- and take the helmet of salvation,
 - With the knowledge of salvation over our heads ...
- and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
 - Weapon for both attack and defense...

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

⊗ It is with this equipment that we protect ourselves from the temptations of the flesh.

NOTES

- *Illustration about leaving Itronix*
 - *Finally surrendering to God and correcting my attitude*
 - *Work for God*
 - *Mat 20 | Workers in Vineyard*

<p>Col 3:22 Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.</p> <p>Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,</p> <p>Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.</p>
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- *Or Situation at Trident right now*
 - *Making decisions that affect people's lives*
 - *The frustration*
 - *The conclusion – Work for Jesus.*

If you love wealth more than liberty and you prefer the tranquility of servitude rather than the animated contest of freedom, go home in peace. We seek neither your counsel nor your arms, but bend down and lick the hands that feed you and may your chains rest lightly upon you and may your posterity forget that you are our countryman.

Samuel Adams

Minister Joe Wright prayer in the Kansas Senate.

Progression of government.

1943

Bondage to Spiritual Faith;
 Spiritual Faith to Courage;
 Courage to Liberty;
 Liberty to Abundance;
 Abundance to Selfishness;
 Selfishness to Apathy;
 Apathy to Dependency;
 Dependency to Bondage

1946

Bondage to Spiritual Faith;
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 Freedom to Abundance;
 Abundance to Selfishness;
 Selfishness to Complacency;
 Complacency to Apathy;
 Apathy to Fear;
 Fear to Dependency;
 Dependency to Bondage

1750 -- Alexander Fraser Tytler (Possible origin)

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/ballot/athenian.asp>

<http://www.lorencollins.net/tytler.html>