

THE HIGHER POWER, GOD'S SERVANT

Romans 13:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Christians must live in the world
 - 1) Jesus leaves us in the world
 - 2) We do God's work in the world

- B. We are citizens of two worlds
 - 1) We are Ambassadors of Christ
 - 2) We are citizens of this nation

- C. While we live in this world we will be wounded and we will be persecuted.
 - 1) Jesus said, *"the servant is not above his master"*
 - 2) He taught us not to seek revenge
 - 3) Paul said to, *"live peaceably with all men"*
 - a> "If it be possible"
 - b> "As much as lieth in you"

- D. Who the, will avenge the wrong?
 - 1) God will do it Himself 12:19
 - 2) God will use, *"the power"*, to do it

- I. The Christian And The Higher Power verse 1
 - A. *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers"*
 - 1) *"subject"* = υποτασσω = "to range or put under", "to subordinate", "to make subject"
 - 2) *"higher"* = υπερεχω = "to hold over a thing, as being superior and as protecting it"
 - 3) *"power"* = εξουσια = "delegated authority"
 - 4) *"Let every man submit himself to..."* Con
 - 5) Peter teaches the same truth
 - 6) I Peter 2:13-17

B. *"For there is no power but of God:"*

- 1) *"power"* = εξουσια = "authority"
- 2) *"For no authority exists except by the will of God"* TENT

C. *"The powers that be are ordained of God"*

- 1) *"powers"* = εξουσια = "authority"
- 2) *"ordained"* = τασσω = "to order anything to be done, as in the military", "to appoint"
- 3) *"The existing authorities have been established by Him..."*

II. The Christian Should Not Resist The Higher Power vs. 2

A. *"Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:"*

- 1) *"resisteth"* = αντιτασσομαι = "to set one's self in battle array against", "to oppose"
- 2) *"power"* = εξουσια = "authority"
- 3) *"resisteth"* = ανθιστημι = "to stand against, to set one's self against", "to oppose", "to resist"
- 4) *"ordinance"* = διαταγη = "a disposing in order", "arrangement"
- 5) *"So that he that sets himself against the authority"*
ABUV. "Sets himself in opposition to what God has ordained" Gspd

B. *"and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation"*

- 1) *"resist"* = ανθιστημι = "to stand against"
- 2) *"receive"* = λαμβανω = "to receive from another"
- 3) *"damnation"* = κριμα = "the sentence of a judge"

III. Good People Should Not Fear The Power verse 3

A. *"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil"*

- 1) *"rulers"* = αρχων = "one first in power", "authority or dominion", hence, "a ruler, a lord, prince"

- 2) "terror" = φοβος = "fear", "terror"
- 3) "The man who does right has nothing to fear from the magistrates, as the wrongdoer has." Gspd.

B. *"Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power?"*

- 1) "afraid" = φοβεομαι = "to be terrified"
- 2) Do you want to have no reason to fear the authorities..

TENT

C. *"...do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:"*

- 1) "good" = αγαθος = "good of its kind"
- 2) "praise" = επαυνος = "praise upon, commendation"
- 3) "Then practice doing right, and you will be commended for it." Wms.

IV. Civil Power Is To Punish The Evil Doer

A. *"For he is the minister of God to thee for good." vs. 4*

- 1) "minister" = διακονος = "a servant" The main thought is service to another.
- 2) "The officer is God's servant for your protection." Phi

B. *"But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid."*

- 1) "But if you are a law breaker, you have reason to be afraid."

C. *"for he beareth not the sword in vain:" vs. 4*

- 1) "beareth" = φορωω = "to wear about", "constantly bearing or wearing"
- 2) "vain" = ευκτη = "without purpose", "to no purpose"
- 3) "for they do not carry swords for nothing" Gspd.

D. *"for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." vs. 4*

- 1) "minister" = διακονος

- 2) "revenger" = χεκδικος = "executing right and justice; a retributer, avenger"
- 3) "wrath" = οργη = "anger for the desire for revenge"
- 4) "They are God's servants to inflict punishment, for revenge, on the wrong doer."

IV. The Christian Is To Support Civil Power *verse 5-7*

A. "Wherefore ye must needs be subject,"

- 1) "subject" = υποτασσω = "to range or put under", "to subordinate", "to make subject"
- 2) "Wherefore it is necessary to submit yourselves." ABUV

B. "not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake"

- 1) "wrath" = οργη = "anger, together with the desire for revenge"
- 2) "conscience" = συνειδησις = "a knowing with one's self, being one's own witness"
- 3) "Not only for revenge's sake, but as a matter of principle."

C. "Render therefore to all their dues:"

- 1) "render" = αποδιδωμι = "to deliver over"
- 2) "dues" = οφειλη = "what is due", "indebtedness"
- 3) "Pay them all what is due them." Gspd.

D. "tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom."

- 1) "tribute" = φυρος = "what is borne, brought; a tax brought by persons as imposed on their persons and property"
- 2) "due" = οφειλη = "what is due"
- 3) "custom" = τελος = "duty", "a tax", "toll"
- 4) Here tribute is the tax paid by a tributary prince or dependent people. Also the tax on land or real estate. Custom means the revenue which is collected on merchandise.

5) "Pay your taxes and import duties gladly"

E. *"fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."*

1) φοβος = fear

2) "honour" = τιμη = respect

3) "Respect where respect is due and honour where honour is due." TENT

V. The Purpose Of Government, The Power, For The Christian

A. To avenge the wrong

1) vs. 4 - *"a revenger to execute wrath..."*

1) *"a minister of God for good"*

B. To protect the righteous

1) vs. 3 - *"...a terror...to the evil."*

2) *"...they that resist shall receive damnation."*

VI. Does The Power Always Succeed?

A. It succeeded for Paul

1) Paul before Festus - *Acts 25:9-12*

2) *"I appeal unto Caesar."*

B. It failed for Paul

1) There was a law against proselyting

2) *Acts 25:11 - "For if I be an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die:"*

C. The Christian's attitude

1) *"live peaceably with all men"*

2) *"obey God rather than men"*

