

Lesson 28 – Romans 13:1-7

After laying lots of good groundwork on the doctrine of Soteriology, Paul began making direct commands for Christians. (Which is why Romans is the premier book for new believers.) His instruction as recorded in the twelfth chapter is almost overwhelming. Now that we move into the thirteenth chapter, the instruction is still coming, but in a little different way. Instead of short direct commands, Paul moves into imperatives of substance.

Submit to the authorities:

The imperative: Submit to the governmental authority.

Why would we do that?

1. Because that authority is of God. (Whether you live in the republic of China, the democratic Israel, monarchial Saudi Arabia, or the USA)
2. Because refusal brings punishment from God.
3. Because rulers exist to punish the bad and approve of what is good. (Not what is advantageous, prosperous, nor expedient, but what is of moral value. Therefore, our notion of good and bad must not be measured as Americans, but as Biblicists.)
* But what if they actually promote the bad and punish the good?
4. Because God has empowered them to punish and reward.

Pay the authorities:

The imperative: Pay to all what is owed.

Why do we do this?

Because they provide a service for which we are indebted.

* Note * The word *pay* in God's Word carries the idea of bringing an activity or cycle to completion. In this context we get the concept of taxes are owed. We aren't paying ahead, but paying for what is already received.

What do we pay?

1. Taxes to whom taxes are owed. (Money to something needed (EG building permit, Christmas tree permit)
2. Revenue to whom revenue is owed. (Taxes to pay for government services already rendered (EG defense, infrastructure). Tax dollars to the IRS, or the Roman *Publicani*)
3. Respect to whom respect is owed. (Respect of veterans. Law enforcement, firemen, representatives/senators, governor)
4. Honor to whom honor is owed. (Those in authority and exercise great integrity)