

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 9

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: The last time we were together in our study of Romans we finished looking at Romans 12 and so tonight we are stepping into Romans 13. Now we must keep in mind that in the original letter which the Apostle Paul wrote there were no chapter breaks. The chapter breaks were placed here by the translators. Therefore, we can be sure that Romans 13 is a continuation of what we were looking at in Romans 12.

Notice Romans 12:17-21

This is the last thought which we considered from this chapter. Paul addressed the subject of retaliation. We are not to seek retaliation when someone offends us but instead, we are to return good for evil. The retaliation is to be entrusted to the Lord. For us to seek retaliation is to usurp the authority of God. It is God's place to repay evil and when we seek to repay evil it makes us guilty of seeking to sit on God's throne. The last verse of Romans 12 gives to us a warning that we must heed. We are not to be overcome of evil. In other words, we are not to allow the evil that exists in this world to control us to the point that we get focused upon desiring to see others repaid for their evil. Now as we come to Romans 13 Paul is going to explain how the government and law enforcement are the ministers of God to carry out His judgment upon evil.

I. The Obligation of Christians Toward Others

Romans 12:9-15:7

Part 4

A. The believer's obligation to government.

Part 1

Notice Romans 13:1a

"Every soul" here refers to ALL people. We are all to be "subject" to the higher powers. The word subject here is a military term that means to "take our proper place under those who are in authority". The "higher powers" here refer to those who occupy places in government and law enforcement.

Notice Romans 13b

The powers that be are ordained by God. As we move on, we shall see that those who hold a position in government and law enforcement are actually ministers of God. They are not all saved but they are still God's ministers to keep law and order. God places these people in positions of power, and they are then accountable to Him for the positions which they

hold. Each person in a seat of authority has received his position because God has placed them there.

John 19:10-11

¹⁰ Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

¹¹ Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Daniel 2:20-21

²⁰ Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

²¹ And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 4:17, 25, 32

¹⁷ This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

²⁵ That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

³² And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

There is not one person in office as a politician or one person in law enforcement who has not been placed there by God. God places into those positions who He desires. Now that does not mean with an election coming up that we can sit back and not vote. I point this out because many will sit back and say, "God will place into office the person He desires, and I do not need to do anything". We still have the responsibility of exercising our freedom to

vote and that also is used by God to carry out His will. Let me show you what Peter said on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:22-23

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

God gave His only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world, but man was also responsible/accountable for putting Him to death upon the cross. In the same way, God will place who He desires in the position of President as well as other offices, but we also are responsible to do our part by exercising our freedoms. There is a verse in Proverbs that we need to keep in mind.

Proverbs 29:2

² When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

There is another thought that we must also consider. There are times when God places cruel people in places of leadership as a means of judgment upon a nation because they have rejected Him.

1 Samuel 8:4-19

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

⁵ And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

⁷ And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

⁹ Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

¹⁰ And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

¹¹ And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: **He will take your sons**, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

¹² And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

¹³ And **he will take your daughters** to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

¹⁴ And **he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards**, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

¹⁵ And **he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards**, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

¹⁶ And **he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses**, and put them to his work.

¹⁷ **He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.**

¹⁸ And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

Now, let us get back to the thought of submitting to the higher powers. Governmental power was given over to man by God when Noah stepped from the ark.

Genesis 9:5-6

⁵ *And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.*

⁶ *Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

Notice Romans 13:2

Anyone who resists the power of the authorities is resisting God and is in great danger of "damnation" or judgment. To rebel against the authorities which God has ordained and to go against the laws which they enforce is "lawlessness". Lawlessness is sin/the transgression of God's Law.

1 John 3:4

⁴ *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

This is something that will increase as this world moves closer to the kingdom of the Anti-Christ. Lawlessness will abound during the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:12

¹² *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

The word "iniquity" means "lawlessness". In the Tribulation lawlessness will "abound". The world will be under the rule of the Lawless one.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

⁷ *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

The word "WICKED" in verse 8 means "LAWLESS". The anti-Christ will be the Lawless one. He will be completely against the Word of God. This means that as our world moves closer to the Tribulation, we will see more and more lawlessness. This is exactly what we are seeing today with the attacks upon police officers and the rioting and destruction taking place within many cities. We see it also in the "defund the police" movements. These are all direct attacks against God and His Word for He has ordained the authorities to keep lawlessness in check and we are to submit to them. There is however an exception. We are to submit to the authorities until they direct us to walk in disobedience to what God has

command us to do. We see this in Acts 2 when there was an attempt to silence the Apostles.

Acts 2:27-29

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

²⁸ Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Notice Romans 13:3

The authorities are ordained to strike fear in people who are law breakers. The reason they are to strike fear is because God expects there to be penalties for crimes. Penalties and consequences are deterrents to keep sinful people from practicing lawlessness. When discipline and penalties are taken away man will go deeper and deeper into lawlessness and will ultimately bring destruction upon himself. We see this in the book of Genesis before the flood, in the days of Noah.

Genesis 6:5, 11-12

⁵ And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Conclusion:

If believers suffer under the authorities it should be for doing good and not evil.

1 Peter 3:17

¹⁷ For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.