

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 11

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we looked at the subject of capital punishment.

Notice Romans 13:4

We see that those in authority are the ministers of God and we are told by Paul that they do not carry the sword in vain. The sword in Paul's day was used for the execution of criminals. Those in authority carry the sword/the power to take human life, for the purpose of executing wrath upon those who break the law and are deserving of the death penalty. God gave established capital punishment when Noah stepped from the ark and He has never rescinded the order. Capital punishment will be carried out in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ and it is to be implemented today also. It serves as a deterrent to others who may consider committing the same crime.

Deuteronomy 19:16-20

¹⁶ If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;

¹⁷ Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;

¹⁸ And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;

¹⁹ Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

²⁰ And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

Many today object to capital punishment because they say it is inhumane. These people have lost sight of what the criminal has done to the victims. How much suffering did the victims go through? God said something interesting pertaining to the person who carries out the penalty upon the criminal:

Deuteronomy 19:21

²¹ And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

A. The believer's obligation to government.

Part 3

Notice Romans 13:5

Here is a verse that we need to spend some extra time on for a specific reason. We are told that we "MUST NEEDS BE SUBJECT", and Paul then gives us two reasons why.

1. To avoid the wrath of the authorities.

You see, we who are believers are also under the authorities and if we break the law the penalties also apply to us. We should always live in a way that we are the example to the unsaved. For God's people to be penalized by the law is something that severely damages our testimony.

1 Peter 2:12-13a

¹² *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

¹³ *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:*

Let me show you something that happened to Abram that should never happen to a believer. The scene takes place in Egypt after Abram has lied about Sarai being his wife.

Genesis 12:16-20

¹⁶ *And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.*

¹⁷ *And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.*

¹⁸ *And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?*

¹⁹ *Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.*

²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

It is verse 20 that we need to grasp. Abram, who was a prophet of the Lord, was kicked out of Egypt for not telling the Truth. This was a disgrace! We as God's people should live in such a way that those of the world can never accuse us of living in disobedience to God's Word. Getting back to the point, we are to be subject because of wrath.

2. To avoid the convictions of the conscience.

It is especially important that we live with a clear conscience. To ignore the conscience is very dangerous because as a person violates their conscience, they face the danger of searing the conscience. When this happens, there is then less conviction the next time they sin, and it becomes easier every time to violate the conscience. This is something we are seeing in our society today.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

1 Peter 2:18-20

¹⁸ *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*

¹⁹ *For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.*

²⁰ *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

There is yet another thought in Romans 13:5 that we must consider. To be "SUBJECT" does not mean we ignore the lawlessness of the authorities. At this time in our nation we are facing what looks to be voter fraud and it makes no difference who is running for President, if our voting system is not conducted honestly then we will no longer remain a democracy. If what we are facing is not made right it will be the end of our nation. I point this out because some churches are teaching that we need to heed the Words of Jesus in Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:9

⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers**: for they shall be called the children of God.

They are using this verse to encourage their people accept whatever happens in a peaceful manner and not say anything. Basically, they are saying, "Just let it go. It is not our place to right the wrong." But there are other verses in the Bible also.

Ephesians 5:11

¹¹ *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them.***

Our responsibility is to stand against evil and corruption and to speak out against it. We are to educate people who do not understand the dangers of the direction which our nation is headed and do all we can to lead them to Jesus Christ. We know that one day all the freedoms we have in this nation will go away because we can read of the kingdom of the anti-Christ. But that does not mean we lay down and allow lawlessness to go unchecked. Our freedoms may all go away in our day but let us be sure it does not happen because we were silent and complacent.

Notice Romans 13:6

Here Paul tells us that for the same two reasons we are to also pay "tribute" which is taxes. To be dishonest on taxes is sin, regardless of how those in authority conduct their lives. What they do with the money is something they will answer for. Our responsibility is to be obedient and pay our taxes.

Notice Romans 13:6b

The idea here is that in paying taxes we are funding God's ministers. All those who serve in a place of authority need to make a living to support themselves and their families and for that reason we are commanded to pay taxes. Now since these are the ministers of God, we must understand that when we are dishonest with our taxes, we are actually withholding funding from God. You see they serve Him as they keep law and order.

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ *He that hath pity upon the poor **lendeth unto the LORD**; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

Jesus taught His disciples of the need to pay taxes while He lived on earth.

Matthew 17:24-27

²⁴ *And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?*

²⁵ He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

²⁶ Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

²⁷ Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Luke 20:21-25

²¹ And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly:

²² Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

²³ But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

²⁴ Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

²⁵ And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

Notice Romans 13:7a

We have an obligation to the government authorities, and we are to be sure to fulfill our obligation.

Notice Romans 13:7

1. We are to be sure our taxes are paid in full.
2. We are to be sure to pay customs/taxes on imported goods.
3. We are to render fear/respect to those in authority.
4. We are to show honor to those in positions of honor.

Let us notice Paul's instructions to Timothy.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Conclusion:

I know there are many people who do all they can to get out of paying taxes because of how the government uses the money. I also struggle with how our tax dollars are spent at times. But we are commanded to "render to all their dues". This text was given when Nero was the Emperor. I can assure you the government of Rome was not perfect just as our government today is not perfect. Those in authority will one day stand before God in judgment and they will answer for the corruption which they have carried out.