

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 10

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we started into Romans 13 and it is in this chapter that Paul teaches his readers about their obligation to the government.

Notice Romans 13:1-2

Paul informed his readers who were living under Nero that God had ordained government and law enforcement and to resist either was to resist the ordinance of God. We looked at the exception to this which is found in Acts 5.

Acts 5:27-29

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.

When the government orders us to walk in a way that is contrary to God's Word then it our responsibility to follow God and not the government.

Notice Romans 13:1 again.

In this verse we also considered how God places into the positions of authority those who He chooses to use to carry out His will. The Words of our Lord help us to see this.

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.

Let us now move on in our study.

I. The Obligation of Christians Toward Others

Romans 12:9-15:7

Part 5

A. The believer's obligation to government.

Part 2

Notice Romans 13:3-4

Those who hold positions of authority are ordained of God to keep law and order. Here we also see that those in authority are the ministers of God and if they need to, they are to execute wrath upon those who are law breakers.

Now let me bring up a question that many have asked before, "Do I need to submit to authority when the authority is corrupt?" The answer is, "YES". As long as they are not requiring us to walk in a way that is contrary to God's Word, we are to be obedient to the laws of our nation. They will need to answer to God for their sin, it is our responsibility to live in such a way that the unsaved world can bring no accusations against us. We are to set the example for others to follow.

1 Peter 2:12-15

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: whether it be to the king, as supreme:*

¹⁴ *Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.*

¹⁵ *For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*

Notice Romans 13:4 again.

Here in this verse we see that those in authority carry the sword but not in vain, meaning that it has a very significant purpose. The sword was the means of execution in Rome. Therefore, Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is telling us that capital punishment was to be used as a means of keeping law and order in a society. God could execute His punishment upon law breakers, but He has instead given to human government the responsibility. Paul tells his readers in this verse that if they were to break the law then they were to fear because they would then fall under the punishment of the authorities. Now there are many who believe that capital punishment has no place in our

society today, but the question is, "What does the Bible say?" Let us consider exactly what the Bible teaches concerning capital punishment.

1. It was established before God gave the Law to Moses.

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.

Here in verse 6 God states that capital punishment is to be carried out by the authorities on anyone who is guilty of murder. Then at the end of the verse we see the reason. Man is made in the image of God, therefore any attack upon man is the same as an attack upon God. Human life is sacred and is to be protected. This was established before the Law, but it is in perfect agreement with the Law.

Exodus 21:24-25

²⁴ Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

²⁵ Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

These verses teach the punishment should fit the crime.

2. Capital punishment under the Law.

Now it may be surprising to some but under the Law capital punishment was to be carried out for crimes other than murder.

Exodus 21:12, 15-17, 22-23

¹² He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.

¹⁵ And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.

¹⁶ And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁷ And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

²² *If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*

²³ *And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,*

- **Capital punishment was implemented for the murder of any man. (:12)**
- **Capital punishment was implemented if a child would strike either parent. (:15)**
- **Capital punishment was implemented for kidnapping. (:16)**
- **Capital punishment was implemented if a child cursed either parent. (:17)**
- **Capital punishment was implemented upon anyone who caused a pregnant woman to lose her baby. (:22-23)**

3. Capital punishment is not murder.

Many people want to point to the Sixth of the Ten Commandments and declare that capital punishment violates the Sixth Commandment.

Exodus 20:13

¹³ *Thou shalt not kill.*

This verse actually means, "THOU SHALT NOT MURDER." Now we know that capital punishment is not a violation of this Sixth Commandment because we find the details for capital punishment given after the Ten Commandments. If capital punishment violated the Sixth Commandment, then we would have to conclude that God gave commands that violated His own Word. Someone has said that all murder is killing but not all killing is murder. Let me give you some examples of killing that is not murder.

- **Killing the enemy in a war. This is not murder. David killed Goliath in battle and that was not murder.**
- **A man confronts someone who breaks into his house who has the intent of harming his family and he kills the intruder. This is not murder, it is self-defense.**
- **An accidental killing is not murder.**
- **A policeman shoots a criminal who is somehow endangering the lives of other people or endangering the life of the officer. This is not murder.**
- **The executioner who gives the injection or pulls the electric switch or swings the sword. This man is doing his job as the minister of God.**

It is important to understand that capital punishment will be implemented in the earthly Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 11:3-4

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Those who openly rebel in the Kingdom will be quickly judged.

4. Capital punishment is designed to be a deterrent.

When capital punishment is implemented it becomes very effective in preventing crime. The reason is because man fears death and when he knows the crime could cost him his life, he is less likely to commit the crime.

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

In our day those who commit crimes worthy of death are placed in prison where they receive balanced meals, entertainment, time to exercise and many more pleasures. This certainly does not deter people from committing crimes. Let me show you how God desires punishment to be carried out.

Deuteronomy 19:16-21

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.

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.

When people hear of the consequences it deters other criminals from committing such crimes.

Conclusion:

Capital punishment was given by God and is **STILL** to be implemented in our day. Human life is still sacred, and man is still made in the image of God therefore when someone intentionally takes the life of another human being, God still intends for their lives to be taken. Romans 13:4 still applies to our day. Paul himself testified that he believed capital punishment was to be implemented if it fit the crime.

Acts 25:10-11

¹⁰ Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

¹¹ For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

There is also the testimony of the thief on the cross.

Luke 23:40-41

⁴⁰ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.