

Parson to Person

ROMANS 13 PART 4

(Reprinted from Last week)

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor” (Romans 13:1–7 NKJV).

The fundamental theme of Romans 13:1–7 is that chaos is not to be accepted. Order is of God! The universe, world power(s), civil government, ecclesiastical (Church) government, and family government is ordained of God and must be embraced. Secondly, we see that men who reject authority will suffer the consequences. This means full subjection to God as the first and highest sovereign and that all other powers are subject to Him. Therefore, all powers are to reflect the glory of God and those who don’t are in error and must come back into subjection to Him.

Indeed, we can see that the world is in trouble and that repentance and rejuvenation is needed. Moreover, we will not see this needed return to “order” until the Millennial Kingdom and New Heaven and New Earth comes to fruition. Under the Millennial Reign of Jesus, there will be an enforcement of order (He will rule with a rod of iron), and climactically, in the New Heaven and New Earth, righteousness will be the norm as only the redeemed will dwell therein.

A clear focus on Romans 13:1–7 shows us that the position taken by the author is on good leadership, good standards, and the punishment of evil/evildoers. However, with the present state of affairs in the world, we can see that much must be understood in the bigger picture of interpreting the application for the Christian who lives in a world of evil and chaos.

Therefore, in concluding our short series on this passage, may I suggest the following points for your consideration:

- 1) All authority belongs to the Lord.
- 2) All subordinate authority is subject to the rule of God.
- 3) All “authorities” are subject to the rule of God.
- 4) Godly authority and rule (“good”) is subject to the defined standards revealed in the Scriptures.
- 5) Evil and insubordination is defined and condemned in the Scriptures.
- 6) All “authorities” are appointed under the sovereign oversight and control of God.
- 7) Authority and the “authorities” are to be supported, revered, and honored.
- 8) If we find that an “authority” is not subjecting him- or herself to the authority of God, it is the fault of that “authority.”
- 9) American authority is subject to God and the subordinate authorities provided in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances.
- 10) American “authorities” are subject to God and the subordinate authority provided by the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances.
- 11) The American “authorities” in authority today are appointed by God through the subordinate authority of “*We the People.*”
- 12) If we find that the American authorities (laws and ordinances) in place today are not subject to the authority of God, it is the fault of “*We the People.*”
- 13) If we find that the American “authorities” in place today are not subjecting themselves to God and the subordinate authorities found in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances, it is the fault of that “authority” and of “*We the People.*”
- 14) If we find that the American authorities in place today are not subject to God and the subordinate authorities provided us in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances, “*We the People*” have the authority to amend or remove the authority and/or authorities.

- 15) If we find that the American “authorities” in place today are not subjecting themselves to God and the subordinate authorities provided us in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances, *“We the People”* have the authority to remove the “authority” and/or “authorities.”
- 16) If we find that the American authorities and/or “authorities” in place today are not subject to or subjecting themselves to God and the subordinate authorities provided us in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, state constitutions, laws and ordinances, *“We the People”* have the authority to obey God rather than man and his or her subordinate authority.

“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge’” (Acts 4:19 NKJV).

“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men’” (Acts 5:29 NKJV).

I love you all,
Pastor Paul