

God, Government, and You!

Romans 13:1-7



Background for Romans 13

Governing Authorities over the Church at Rome

1. Caligula (A.D. 37-41) ~ *had his former joint Emperor murdered, while suffering from a severe illness appearing to go insane, he had most of his relatives murdered, had people tortured and killed while he ate, named his favorite horse as a counselor, declared himself god, and had temples and sacrifices dedicated to himself. In A.D. 41 he was assassinated by his own guards!*

Background for Romans 13

Governing Authorities over the Church at Rome

2. Claudius (A.D. 41-54) ~ *delegated most of his responsibilities to his wife until he had her murdered in A.D. 48, then married his niece who later poisoned Claudius (A.D. 54), around A.D. 50 he banned all Jews from Rome because of unrest, probably related to the preaching of the gospel in Rome (Acts 18:2)*

Background for Romans 13

Governing Authorities over the Church at Rome

3. Nero (A.D. 54-68) ~ *was Emperor at age 15 and 18 when Paul wrote Romans (A.D. 57), had his mother and his wife murdered, probably responsible for setting Rome on fire and blaming Christians, had many Christians tortured and burned alive publically, took the lives of both Peter and Paul, committed suicide in A.D. 68!*

God, Government, and You!

(Romans 13:1-7)

1. The Source of Government (v 1-2)
2. The Service of Government (v 3-4)
3. The Support of Government (v 5-7)

The Source of Government (v 1-2)

1. Government is Established by God!

“...be subject ... for there is no authority except from God and ... authorities are appointed by God”

2. Opposing Government is Opposing God!

“... whoever resists the authority, resists the ordinance of God and ... brings judgment on themselves”

The Service of Government (v 3-4)

1. To Punish those who do Evil!

“For rulers are ... a terror ... to evil”

“ ...he does not bear the sword in vain ... he is God’s minister ... to execute wrath on him who does evil”

2. To Promote/Praise Good Behavior!

“For rulers are not a terror to good works ...” “Do what is good and you will have praise from the same”

The Support of Government (v 5-7)

1. Why We Support Government!

“... you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake”

2. How we Support Government!

“Because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s servants attending continually ... Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor”

Practical Applications

1. Christians are to submit to laws, pay taxes, show respect do good in the community and pray for authorities so they may live quiet and peaceable lives!
2. Christians know that governments have no authority except that which is given to them by God therefore we should have no fear of submitting!
3. Christians understand that there is no promise of just treatment by any government, our lives are about obeying and trusting God and denying ourselves for the glory of Christ and the good of others!