

ROM 240 - Government & God Rom 13:1-7

We're still flying - from the Take-Off point of **Rom 12:1-2**

We're still looking at **HOW** it looks
when we are **LIVING** a Transformed life

After "Taking Off" from **Rom 12:1-2** - We looked at:

- 1) How to **Serve God** - **Rom 12:3-8**
- 2) How to **Walk** Like a **Christian** - **Rom 12:9-21**

& today we look at - **How to Act like a Citizen**
by understanding - **GOV'T and GOD**

& we **ARE** teaching verse-by-verse - this is **NOT** a **TOPICAL** msg
thrown in because it's election time

For the CD archives I prob need to **Date-Stamp** this msg
it's **Oct 19, 2008**

& we have **PIVOTAL** Presidential election coming up in **2 WEEKS**
& the truth is - I **am very afraid** for this Great Country

I believe the **potential** for the U.S. to become Increasingly **Un-Godly**
is **higher** right now - than it has **ever been**

This is the **Greatest Country** in the World - **BECAUSE**
this Country was built on **Godly Principles** & **Biblical Values**

& I **believe VERY** strongly - that we will **ONLY REMAIN**
the **Greatest Country** in the World

as long as we **RETAIN** our **Godly Principles** & **Biblical Values**

And you can **absolutely**, **clearly**, **unquestionably** SEE
over the last 40 years

that **AS** this country has FALLEN away from its **Godly Values**
We have **EQUALLY** begun to **FALL AWAY** - from our **Greatness**

& so **YOU & I** - as Christians - **MUST** do everything we can
to help this country remain ***"One Nation UNDER GOD"***

BUT - - what happens if we, as a Country,
CONTINUE this **SLIDE** into Un-Godliness ??

What happens if the enemies of God
Who **control** most of the **media** in the country

What happens if **they** succeed in effectively **REMOVING** God
from the very **foundation** of this Great Country

What if our **GOV'T** becomes **completely** Anti-God
& **Totally** against the Biblical Principles we were founded on

WHAT then ???

Well - **THAT** (actually) is the **POINT** of our Text today

Let's Pray

Like I said - we **ARE** teaching V-by-V
& our text today **IS** the **NEXT** verse in our study of Romans

MAYBE it's just **coincidence** - this Msg falls 2 weeks before

what I believe will be a **VERY PIVITOL** election
in the **HISTORY** of this Country

& by the way - it is **still LEGAL** (for now)
for me to Directly ***Encourage*** you, to **Stand** for - & **Vote** for

the **VALUES** of **GOD**, & the **PRINCIPLES** of **God's Word**

Which include - **God's Design for Marriage**
& the **Sanctity of Human Life** - among other things

WE MUST do all we can - to hold onto & **support**
the Biblical **VALUES** this country was truly **FOUNDED ON**

Even tho our culture is doing all it can
to try to **ERASE** that ***truly*** God Centered **Foundation**

Along those lines - I want to strongly suggest

that you Look Into just **HOW** God-Centered
the **Foundation** of this country really was

Go to **WWW.WALLBUILDERS.COM** - Check it Out !!

We are a **Christian Country** - altho less & less every election

But **I need** to make it very **clear**
we are the **SALT** & the **LIGHT** in this progressively **DARK** Culture

& we have a responsibility to do ALL we can
to call this Country BACK

to the Godly & Biblical principles that made her GREAT

HOWEVER - today's Message is NOT
a "Fight the Gov't" - Msg

& THIS Msg - is NOT a Politically Motivated msg
altho the FIRST Msg I wrote actually WAS

But God "Shook Me" - & I had to totally RE-WRITE the Msg

So - if I am going to stay TRUE to our TEXT (*which I intend to*)

Then I have to talk about
the TWO very clear points our TEXT makes ;

- 1) God's Sovereignty & Purpose in Government
- 2) How we should act toward our Government

My 1st Msg - was a CRY for us to do all we can
to save this country from its SLIDE into Un-Godly Self-Destruction

& I still believe we must DO all we can

But when God SHOOK me - I realized
there is ACTUALLY a BIGGER Msg here

than just my FEAR over our current Political situation

So I'm going to teach you (a much as I'm able)
what this TEXT actually SAYS

& if "*in between the lines*"

You hear me CRYING OUT for this country - *that's OK*

But Our TEXT today - actually shows us
the BIGGER PICTURE

So - with ALL that - let's start with Rom 13:1
where BOTH our main points are seen

but we'll start by focusing on
the SOVERIEGNTY of God in GOV'T

ROM 13:1 - ESV

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Now THAT is a radical statement !

*There is NO Authority except FROM God
The authority that exists has been instituted BY GOD*

I know some of your minds are already SPINNING
with a dozen reasons why that must NOT be true

But I promise you - God's Word is true
& this is exactly what God's Word says

This is Vs. about

GOD'S **SOVEREIGNTY** - & OUR **RESPONSIBILITY**

The God's Sovereignty part is;

there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

The Our Responsibility part is;

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities

& HERE is something we MUST come to grips with

We are **NOT** supposed to **understand** God's **Sovereignty**

We **ARE** supposed to **trust it**

Rom 11:33-34 - NLT

33 Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

34 For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?

When we combine **ROM 13:1** - with **ROM 11:33-34** - - [VIDEO]

we can get **PEACE** about **God's Sovereignty**

Rom 13:1 - **ALL** Authority has been instituted BY GOD

Rom 11:33 - It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to understand God's ways, or to know His thoughts . . . **OR**, give Him **ADVICE**

In **JER 25:9**

God calls the **PAGAN KING** *Nebuchadnezzar* His **SERVANT**

& God uses him to allow **Israel** to be taken into **Captivity**
Because they had **turned so far** from God

But even **BEFORE THAT** - In **ISA 45:4**

God says to the **KING** that would **RETURN** Israel to the land

Isa 45:4 - *4 For the sake of . . . Israel . . . I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.*

THAT King's name was **CYRUS** - & God **NAMED** him in **ISA 45**
over **150 Yrs** **BEFORE** Cyrus was **BORN**

What that means is - God **CAN** & **DOES** *work with*
ith both **BELIEVING** & **UNBELIEVING** Kings

But that **DOESN'T** mean

we just let **whatever happens**, happen

We **DO** have an **OBLIGATION** to be God's **Light** - & God's **Banner**

& we have an **OBLIGATION** to Call this Nation
BACK to its Godly Heritage - *(just like the Prophets did)*

We **MUST** Proclaim - & **VOTE** FOR

God's **Values** & Godly **Principles** in our GOV'T

We **MUST** take a stand for **GOD** in this Country
& we must do it **NOW** *more than ever*

HOWEVER - The truth of this scripture still **stands**
there is **NO Authority** except what God **Institutes**

THAT - is God's **Sovereignty**

& so **the Question** is - **HOW** do we **WORK** (live) within that ??

& the **BEST** Explanation of HOW to do that
comes from **Jesus** Himself in **Mat 22**

In **MAT 22** - **TWO Groups** come to Jesus **together**
The **Pharisee's** & the **Herodians**

The **Pharisees** were extremely **religious**
& hated everything about the Roman **GOV'T**

The **Herodians** were purely **POLITICAL**
& they existed solely to support the **GOV'T**

One day they came to Jesus **together**
& really - their intention was to **entrap** Jesus

& so they try to **SET HIM UP** in **V.16**
& then they **try** to drop a **BOMB** on Him with this question in **V.17**

Mat 22:17 - NLT

17 Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

& then - starting in **V.18** - Jesus teaches us **EXACTLY**
what **Romans Ch 13** is teaching us

Mat 22:18-22 - NLT → →

Mat 22:18-22 - NLT

18 But Jesus knew their evil motives. “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me?

19 Here, show me the coin used for the tax.” When they handed him a Roman coin,

20 he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. “Well, then,” he said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

22 His reply amazed them, and they went away.

Caesar had HIS image stamped on the money - so it belonged to him

**God's PEOPLE had God's image stamped on their hearts
so they belonged to GOD**

& it is the **SAME** for Christian Citizens **TODAY**

Give to **Caesar** what is **Caesar's**

Give to **God** what is **God's**

Which means simply

Be **RESPONSIBLE** to the GOV'T - But give your **HEART** to GOD

We must do all we can to **CALL** this **NATION**
BACK to its Godly Heritage

But we must **ALSO** be ready to **SERVE GOD** **Correctly**
Meaning - Give to God what is God's

NO MATTER what happens in the **Election** in 2 Weeks

There are **HUGE** - Culture Changing **Possibilities** in this election both in the **State of CA** - & in the **Country**

The **state of CA** may actually make it **ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION**

to say that *God's Design for Marriage* is exclusively for one **Man** & one **Woman** (Prop 8)

& in **the Nation** - There's a **chance** that this country will elect the **MOST Radical Liberal** that has **ever** held the office

Who - among other atrocities - will **INSURE** this country will continue to have the *"Right"*

To **TERMINATE** ANY young life that has **no voice** or might be an **inconvenience**

Which - BTW - is the exact **same philosophy** toward life that Adolf Hitler had - **terminate the WEAK & inconvenient**

I am **VERY scared** - of the **UNGODLY** direction this **country** is turning

& we **may** find ourselves, *more & more*, living **under a GOV'T similar** to the one **Paul** was writing about in **ROM 13**

Paul is writing to Christians who are in **the Midst** of a an extremely **Perverse** & **Un-Godly** GOV'T (Rome - Nero)

But again - THIS TEXT (which I must to stick to) - is about 2 things;

- 1) the **Sovereignty** & **Purpose** of GOV'T
- 2) **HOW** we should **act** toward that GOV'T

So let's **get back** to that

Rom 13:1 says - There is **NO Authority EXCEPT** from God

& then - Rom 13:2 says;

2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

The Point of *this text* is **NOT** - what to do **when** the GOV'T **demands** that you to disobey God

We have **plenty of examples** of Men of God

Serving God **Uprightly** - in the Midst of Un-Godly GOV'T's

JOSEPH - **MOSES** - **DAVID** - **DANIEL** - Many of the **Prophets**, **ALL** served God - **in spite of** UNGODLY GOV'T's

& we have the great example in **ACTS CH 5**

where **Peter** & the Apostles were **told** by the GOV'T **NOT** to Preach the **Name of Jesus**

& we read in ACT 5:29 - ESV

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

& so **we know** there comes a time

when the **Rule of God** *supersedes* the **Rule of MAN**

& **Scripture** gives us instruction

on how to **respectfully** **disobey** - if

You are being forced to **violate a command** from God, or **commit** an **ungodly act**

But most of us will probably never be in those situations with our GOV'T

AND - that's NOT actually what our text in ROM 13 is about

THIS Text - Is about the Regular Daily Activities of HOW to live as a CHRISTIAN CITIZEN

& so (again) - Rom 13:2 says

2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

& Rom 13:3-4 - ESV

3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Really - the SUMMARY PURPOSE of GOV'T is to promote GOOD & restrict EVIL

These Vs's show - One of God's Primary Purposes for GOV'T is to Restrict EVIL so that GOOD can flourish

& so we are to

DO GOOD - & we won't have to FEAR the Authorities
or DO WRONG - & we should Be Afraid of them

This is a very simple truth
Christians should OBEY the LAW

& if NOT - there are Consequences - *that GOD has established*

Look closely at V.4 - TWICE we read
the Authorities over us - are GOD'S SERVANTS

Either for our GOOD (if we DO good) - or
to bring God's WRATH (if we do evil)

& THAT WORD - for SERVANT
is the word we get the word DEACON from

The Authority over you - is actually doing GOD'S WORK
of Restricting EVIL & Promoting GOOD

So DO GOOD - & receive their approval

BUT - Don't JUST Do Good out of FEAR of the consequences
DO GOOD for your own CONSCIENCE SAKE

Rom 13:5 - ESV

5 Therefore one must be in subjection [to authorities], not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Paul's saying - OBEY the Law to avoid God's Wrath
but ALSO - for the sake of your own conscience

Acknowledging (again) that Scripture DOES address
GOV'T forcing us to be Disobedient to GOD

For instance - IF **Prop 8** fails - we will find a way
to **RESPECTFULLY NOT perform** same-sex marriages here

Because it would **FORCE us** to be Disobedient to God

But that is **NOT the point** here - The point here is
In **Daily Life** - Christians are to **Follow** the Laws of the Land

By the Way - When we're talking about
Doing **GOOD** - & Doing **RIGHT**

What **SOURCE** do we USE
to **Determine** what is **GOOD** & What is **EVIL**

There are **TWO basic Sources** for Doing this

#1 - a THEOCRACY = "*God-Rule*"
which is **the SOURCE** our *Founding Fathers* followed

& **the SOURCE** this country followed
did for almost **200 yrs** (*not a long time*)

But about **40 years ago** - Our Culture began to **SWITCH**
from following a **Theocracy** - to a **HOMOCRACY**

THEOCRACY = "God-Rule"
HOMOCRACY = "Man-Rule"

& when our culture **STOPPED** following **GOD's RULE**
& stated following **MAN's RULE**

Then the *definitions* of **GOOD & EVIL** began to change

Now - under *Man-Rule*

it's **GOOD** to *terminate* an inconvenient life
& it's **EVIL** to *pray* in school

Under Man-Rule

It's **GOOD** to drown ourselves in **Sexual Sin**
But it's **EVIL** to limit **Marriage** to one Man & one Woman

God help us **SEE** - that following **HOMOCRACY** - "*Man-Rule*"
Is bringing this country down - ONE Election at a time

& Sadly - God will **allow us** to elect people
who **promote** & **follow** *Man-Rule*

& He will **allow** us - to **experience** the **Consequences**

BUT - - in a way we can't *fully understand*

Even while He is **allowing** our evil choices
He is **still** in ultimate **sovereign control**

But **One thing** we know for sure

PRO 14:34 says - ESV

34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

& I believe **THAT** is why this nation has *been* **EXALTED**
& why it is **NOT SO** exalted right now

& that's why we **MUST** represent GOD'S Principles

We must be the **LIGHT**
in a culture - progressively getting **darker & darker**

WE MUST:

- 1) Always **SERVE** God - Represent Him - uphold His THEOCRACY
- 2) **RESPECT** the rule of the Gov't
- 3) Be **SALT & LIGHT** in an increasingly Dark world

We must **BOTH** - Live in **Submission** to Authority
AND - Wholly **SERVE** God

& now finally - our text deals with - **PAYING TAXES**

V.5 says - *We are to be in subjection . . .*
& then **Rom 13:6** says

Rom 13:6 - ESV

*6 For **because of this** you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.*

because of this - because we are to be in Subjection
to the **GOV'T** - for **CONSCIENCE** sake

because of this - *we are to pay taxes*

BECAUSE (v.6) - *the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing*

Do you know that the **IRS** has a "**conscience**" fund
where they collect **millions of dollars** a year
from people who say they've **cheated on past taxes**

One guy sent a note with his "**Conscience Payment**" - it said;

*"here's \$1,000 that I owed from taxes 10 years ago . . .
if my conscience continues to bother me . . . I'll send the rest"*

GOD sets up **GOV'T**
& those who **RULE**, are called God's **MINISTERS**

& **we** are to **pay taxes** - to **support** the work they do

Finally - we see the **Main Point SUMMARIZED** in **Rom 13:7**

Rom 13:7 - ESV

7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

The **MAIN POINT** today is Very Simple

if your life has been **TRANSFORMED** by God
you'll be **living as a Good Citizen**

Paying your **TAXES**

Paying **RESPECT** - to whom Respect is due

Paying **HONOR** - to whom Honor is due

**So Go out there & Support
the Godly Heritage of this country**

Support (& **VOTE** for) God's Values & God's Principles

Be the **Light** that shines in the darkness

BUT - even if we, as a nation, continue down the **slippery slope**
of **Man-Rule**, instead of **God-Rule**

we **must know** - that thru it all

God is actually **STILL** - in **overall control**

& no matter what - we are called to be **GODLY citizens**,
EVEN if we have to be so, in an increasingly **Un-Godly Nation**

God **HELP** us - AND . . . (I mean this with all my heart)

PLEASE GOD - *Continue to Bless America*

Let's PRAY