

Romans 13 – 28 February 2021

“Therefore...” Part 2

“Applying Our Righteousness To Government”

Introduction

*Paul wrote Romans as best document on salvation!!

***Rom 1-8** describes our natural unrighteousness & the solution of believing the cross of Christ has paid our way into a right relationship with God

***Chap 9-11** Paul turns to chronologically look at Israel

***Rom 12-end** -applying righteousness to all of life

Romans 6:4 – “As Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life.” But how?

Rom 12 showed us how to apply our new righteousness to ourselves, the church & the world

We apply our righteousness to govt by being subject to their authority

Today, Romans 13 we’ll see **4 reasons to be subject to governmental rulers**

#1 – We should be subject to govt rulers b/c they can execute wrath (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1

1. First, the injunction to accept their authority
 - a. Do we generally accept their right over us?
 - b. Or Do we generally grumble & complain?
2. Second, the reason we accept their authority is b/c God has allowed them to rule.
 - a. You mean God allowed Hitler to rule?
 - i. Yes, for 12 years, God allowed that evil
 - ii. That time also moved nations to allow Israel to be re-born as a nation fulfilling prophecy
 - b. God know how to use sin sinlessly to accomplish His will

Read Vs 2

1. God's isn't endorsing a certain form of govt, but the principle of govt's power to rule people
2. You're resisting authority that God established & they will 'make a decision against you'

Read Vs 3-4

1. Rulers main job is to keep good order & discipline, they rightfully have power to punish.
 - a. Read Heb 13:17 – Rules supposed to help u
2. Good vs bad
 - a. If you live at peace, rulers should be happy
 - b. If you are acting evil, ruler should punish u
3. You know that rulers have become evil when they become a terror to the peacemakers.
4. You know that rulers have become evil when they turn people from good works, like sharing Gospel
 - a. Govt is to prevent evil but we live in an age that govt wants to disobey the good will of God
 - b. Read Isa 5:20 – those that call evil good

#2 – We should be subject to govt rulers b/c it's the right moral thing to do (Vs 5-7)

Read Vs 5

1. Conscience: awareness inside to do right thing
2. Respecting authority is the right thing to do

Read Vs 6

1. The job the govt does, does cost money
2. Read Luk 20:22-25 – So, pay your taxes, it is the right moral thing (*give **image** punchline later*)
 - a. Even if you think it's too much
 - i. That's an opinion or policy matter not a violation of God's Word or moral standards

Read Vs 7

1. Obey all levels of govt authority & cheerfully
2. Govt does things we don't 'like', but that aren't morally wrong according to the Bible. Obey them
3. I Pet 2:17-19 – endure thru hard laws imposed
4. I Tim 4:2 – Possible to sear your conscience

#3 – We should be subject to govt rulers b/c we should love people (Vs 8-10)

Read Vs 8

1. Don't hold back something that is morally due to be given.
2. WHAT THIS DOESN'T MEAN - Don't have a mortgage or loan
 - i. Read Matt 5:42 – Any of us could fall into need from time to time

Read Vs 9-10

1. In each & every case, you've taken something that belongs to them & now you're in debt to them
 - a. You've taken from them instead of giving to them
 - b. Give others good things, don't take their good things
2. Read Matt 22:37-40
 - a. Law was meant to show us how to love
 - b. The way to obey rulers is to love

#4 – We should be subject to govt rulers so we can get on with the Gospel (Vs 11-14)

Read Vs 11-12

1. Time is short, so take the Gospel-life serious
 - a. We lull ourselves into thinking we have forever, but we don't know how long.
 - b. We DO know that we have less days before we see God than when we first believed.
 - c. Is God calling you?
 - i. Are you being called to quit a sin? Do it!
 - ii. Are you being called to love the unlovable? Do it now!
 - iii. Are you being called to start a work? Do it!
2. The connection between this point and our submission to rulers is this:
 - a. Make our relation with the world a non-issue so we can get to the business of spreading the Gospel to the whole world.
 - b. Same as our relationship w/ money (Pro 30)

Read Vs 13-14

1. Don't waste time in partying, but be sober
2. Do right by the govt, so that we can be about our Father's business
 - a. Read I Tim 2:2 – quiet & peaceable life
 - b. Remember Reading Luke 20:22-25 earlier?
 - i. Punchline – God's image is on you, so “carry” it properly
3. There IS a time to disobey – Read Acts 5:29
 - a. The time to disobey govt is when they're preventing you from exercising the Gospel
 - b. What is the essential Gospel?
 - i. Discipleship in the Word
 - ii. Fellowship, Communion
 - iii. Baptism, the Lord commands meetings w/ touching in many cases (Heb 10:23-25 & Jame5:14)
 - iv. Meeting new people to evangelize

Conclusion

We need to apply our righteousness to the way we look at govt. God would tell us to submit to their authority...but why?

1. B/c they can execute wrath

- a. Think of the alternative, we should be grateful when govt punishes evil doers
- b. If for no other reason, obey so not punished

2. B/c it's the right moral thing to do

- a. Even our conscience tells us that the human evil heart needs a governor on it

3. B/c we should love people

- a. You're either loving people or robbing people.
- b. Lawbreakers will get justice from rulers
- c. Peacemakers will be left alone

4. So we can get on with the Gospel

- a. Give the govt everything they ask for, up to the limit of disobeying God
- b. Pray the govt becomes a non-issue so we can be spreading the Gospel unhindered