

Romans 13:1-7, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Dual Citizenship

Romans 13:1-7

Christian, this world is not your home. We are in the world, but we are not of the world (John 15:16, 18). The Bible calls the people of God aliens and sojourners (Eph. 2:19, Heb. 11:9, 1 Pet. 2:11), for we are just passing through. In a way, we are dual citizens, both in heaven and on earth; yet our primary citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). But while we are here we must be model citizens, pay our taxes, and honor and pray for those in authority. Read Rom. 13:7, 1 Tim. 2:1-2

☐ Tuesday - Subjection to Governing Authorities.

Romans 13:1-7

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul instructed the church that "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities" (Rom. 13:1). This commandment, in his epistle to the Romans, was written around 55 AD, during the reign of one of the worst rulers in human history: Nero. The apostle Peter reiterated the same command (1 Peter 2:13-15). Both of these men were executed under Nero's regime, simply for believing in Christ. Nevertheless, God's Word is clear that God's children should obey governing authorities in all things lawful; that is, in all things that would not cause us to disobey the written Word of God.

Read 1 Peter 2:13-15

☐ Wednesday - No Authority Except From God.

Romans 13:1-7

"Pilate said to [Jesus], 'Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?' Jesus answered, 'You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above'" (John 19:10-11). Here in Romans, the apostle reiterates Jesus' statement, saying, "For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God" (Rom. 13:1). All authority -- good and bad; whether angelic authorities or human governments, all authority is established by God. And if He raises up a good king to bless a nation (Psa. 33:12; 2 Chron. 7:14), or a wicked tyrant to punish that nation (Amos 6:14; Jer. 5:15), all authority is established by God. He truly is the King of kings (Rev. 19:16). Read Prov. 21:1; Dan. 2:21, 4:17

☐ Thursday - Honor the King.

Romans 13:1-7

Romans 13:7 is the application of the first six verses of this chapter: "Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor." Here, Paul is commanding his first-century readers to honor that mad-man Nero. How much more then should we be careful to honor those in authority over us with our actions and our words, even if we vehemently disagree with them.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:17

☐ Friday - Civil Disobedience.

Romans 13:1-7

God's Word is clear that God's children should obey governing authorities. Nevertheless, if a civil law is passed that contradicts a clear command of Scripture, at that point we must obey God rather than man. Yes, not only can we disobey; but, we must disobey. Read Exodus 1:15-21; Joshua 2:1-21; Daniel 3:4-27, Daniel 6:6-23; and Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29, 40-42.