

In returning to this book—let me begin with a brief review of the first 12 chapters—if you remember the letter is basically divided into two parts—[1] chapters 1-11, which are largely doctrinal in nature, and [2] chapters 12-16, which are largely practical in nature—in chapters 1-11, we have the fullest treatment of justification by faith, found within Scripture—through chapter 3:20—the apostle shuts all men up under sin, 3:19—"now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stowed, and all the world may become guilty before God..."

From 3:21—8:39—the apostle provides the good news of God's salvation, 3:21—"but now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe..."

In chapters 9-11—the apostle addresses a potential question—if salvation is for all men, Jew and Gentile—what about God's promises or word to the nation of Israel, 9:6—"but is not that the word of God has taken no effect [or that the word of God has failed]"—For they are not all Israel who are of Israel"—it's this principle that the apostle elaborates upon through the end of chapter 11...

Beginning with chapter 12—we start what's rightly identified as the more practical section—it begins with a summary of our obligations as NC priests (vv1-2), he then gives a description of various gifts given for the edification of the body (vv3-8), and then describes how "sincere love" looks—with regards to our brethren and enemies (vv9-21)...

Now—there are three things I want to do byway of introduction—[1] examine the relationship that exists between chapters 12 and 13—simply put—in chapter 12 Paul addresses our relationship with ourselves, those within and without the church—in chapter 13 he continues the same thing—in vv1-7 our relationship with those without the church (the governing authorities)—in vv8-10 our relationship with those within the church (our brethren)—in vv11-14 our relationship with ourselves—"put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh..."

Stuart Olyott—"In chapter 12 Paul has told us what God expects of us in the church and as individuals. But this does not exhaust the demands which God makes. Besides being individuals who are members of churches we are also citizens of earthly states. In this area, too, a distinctive sort of behavior is expected of us, and Paul continues his letter by telling us what it is..."

[2] Briefly examine the 13th chapter—it can be divided into three parts—[a] vv1-7, wherein the apostle describes our relationship with the civil magistrate, [b] vv8-10, wherein he returns to the subject of Christian love, and [c] vv11-14, wherein he returns to the subject of personal consecration or holiness...

[3] Briefly examine verses 1-7—I suggest they can be loosely divided into three sections—[a] governing authorities are established by God (vv1-2) [considered this morning], [b] governing authorities are ministers of God (vv3-4) [considered this evening], and [c] governing authorities are obeyed for God's sake (vv5-7) [considered next week]...

I. Governing Authorities are Established by God: Explained

II. Governing Authorities are Established by God: Applied

I. Governing Authorities are Established by God: Explained

A. All authority is from God

1. Verse 1—"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God..."
2. All authority is of, or from God—God has established various realms of authority—in the state, church, and home...
3. [1] National authority—this is what Paul here refers to as—"governing authorities"—authorities that govern a nation...

4. V2—"Therefore whoever resist the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves..."
5. Governing authority is—"the ordinance of God"—the institution of God—it is of God's making and ordaining...
6. Now—let me make very clear—that the Scriptures nowhere endorse any one particular kind of government...
7. Some would have us believe that a Democracy is God's government—others that a Monarchy is God's government...
8. Well—simply put—the facts are—neither of these are God's government—for neither are found within Scripture...
9. The facts are—while Scripture nowhere describes any ONE government—it does endorse the principle of government...
10. For here we learn—that "the governing authority" is "the ordinance of God"—governing authorities are of God...
11. Thus—Paul exhorts us, v1—"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God..."
12. To be subject—means to be in submission to them—which necessarily entails that we honor and obey them...
13. Titus 3:1—"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work..."
14. Now—as we shall learn next week—this does not imply that we obey the governing authorities without exception...
15. If and when they command us to act contrary to Scripture—then it becomes our duty to obey God not man...
16. But—providing their laws comply with the general teaching of God's word—to disobey them is to disobey God...
17. V2—"Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinances of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves..."
18. That is—the judgment of the magistrate—who possesses a God-given right—to punish those who resist God...
19. Now—I personally do not think—that this text totally rules out the possibility of a righteous rebellion or revolt...
20. There may come a time when the magistrate has so strayed from its God intended purpose—and it needs resisting...
21. But—the apostle is fundamentally dealing with individual compliance to governing authorities, within this passage...
22. V1—"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities"—that is—every soul or INDIVIDUAL person...
23. Thus—this passage is not addressing just or necessary wars, civil wars—or even—just or necessary revolutions...
24. But it does teach—governments, in general, are invested with God-given authority—intended to promote order...
25. Thus—disobedience to governing authorities—is disobedience to God—"for there is no authority except from God..."
26. MLJ—"Let us be clear about this. The Apostle is saying that government, law and order are God's idea...The state and government, magistrates, and so on, are not a human invention, they are not a human desire or device..."
27. [2] Ecclesiastical authority—that is—there is a government which is invested with authority within the church...
28. The NT Scriptures speak of this as the office of elder—that is, men called of God and recognized by the church...
29. Heb.13:17—"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you..."

30. Notice three things—[a] the reality of ecclesiastical authority—"obey those who rule over you, and be submissive..."
 31. That is—obey their preaching, teaching, and counsel—in so far as it aligns with Christ's will within Scripture...
 32. [b] The sobriety of ecclesiastical authority—"for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account..."
 33. That is—they will give an account to God—for God has entrusted them with authority—within the church...
 34. They will give account concerning the manner in which they have exercised this authority within the church...
 35. [c] The benefits of ecclesiastical authority—"let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you..."
 36. That is—being under the authority of God-given, church recognized men—is a positive and beneficial reality...
 37. Submission to church leaders (providing it harmonizes with Scripture)—results in profit and benefit for you...
 38. [3] Domestic authority—that is—within homes God has given authority to husbands, parents, and masters...
 39. Col.3:18-22—"wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord...Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord...bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God..."
- B. All authorities are appointed by God
1. All authorities are appointed by God—"and the authorities that exists are appointed by God"—that is—chosen by God...
 2. Not only is all authority rooted in God's holy law—but specific rulers—have their appointment from God...
 3. Hendriksen—"The civil magistrates to whom Paul refers, from the emperor down to the rulers of the lowest rank, in the final analysis owed their appointment and right to govern to God. It was by his will and in his providence that they had been appointed to maintain order, encourage well-doing, and punish wrong-doing..."
 4. Now—this brethren—is the clear teaching of Scripture—every ruler rules—because God appointed Him a ruler...
 5. This in do way implies—that every ruler is a God fearing ruler—nor that he rules righteously or with equity...
 6. Nor dos this imply—that ever ruler assumes his throne in a lawful way, or has lawfully assumed that throne...
 7. But it does mean—that every ruler has ultimately been appointed by God, to whom he is finally responsible...
 8. Prov.8:15-16—"By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth..."
 9. Throughout the first nine chapters of Proverbs—we find the eternal Son (word) of God personified as wisdom...
 10. Counsel, sound wisdom, understanding, and strength—all come from Him—He is the source of these things...
 11. Thus—all righteous rulers, kings, princes, and judges—rule by Him—that is—by His wisdom and strength...
 12. This is also true of all rulers, kings, princes, and judges, v16—"by me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth..."
 13. Gill—"Christ is the Prince of the kings of the earth, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; they are made kings by him, and are under him; he sets them up, and deposes them at pleasure; they have their kingdoms, crowns, and sceptres from him, and are accountable to him..."
 14. Dan.2:20-22—"Daniel answered and said: Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He

gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, and light dwells with Him..."

15. David would then go on to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream—would describe a total of give kingdoms...
16. The first four kingdoms were the Babylonian (gold), Medo-Persian (silver), Grecian (bronze), and Roman (iron/clay)...
17. The fifth kingdom belongs to Christ, v44—"and in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever..."
18. But the point is this—it is God who—"removes kings and raises up kings"—all authorities are appointed by Him...
19. Dan.4:25—"They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses..."
20. This verses foretells of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling—which was intending to teach him the truth of our text...

II. Governing Authorities are Established by God: Applied

A. Byway of WARNING

1. Here—I suggest this subject provides a twofold warning—[1] to those given authority, [2] those under authority...
2. [1] Those given authority—that is—this passage provides a rather sober warning for every person in authority...
3. If ALL authority is from God—then every ruler appointed by God—will one day—give an account to God...
4. In other words—every ruler appointed by God—has a peculiar responsibility to God—to rule in a godly manner...
5. Thus—I suggest this fact—provides a stern warning to everyone in authority—in the state, church, and home...
6. Jas.3:1—"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment..."
7. These words are usually understood of teachers within the church—who have been entrusted with authority...
8. Do not seek this office hastily—"knowing that we (those with authority in the church) shall receive a stricter judgment..."
9. But this principle could/should be applied to all authority—for all authorities—shall receive a stricter judgment...
10. [2] Those under authority—that is—if all authority is from God—then all defiance to authority is against God...
11. Disobedience to national authority, ecclesiastical authority, and domestic authority—is disobedience to God...
12. But—I will take that a step further and assert—that disobedience to authority is disobedience to God in Christ...
13. I recently made the distinction between the kingdom of power and grace—the first including the entire world...
14. Matt.13:41-42—"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth..."
15. This refers to the final day—when the King shall return and remove every disobedient subject from His kingdom...
16. Thus—there's a sense in which—Christ presently rules over all men—through various God-established authorities...

17. And there is a sense in which—all disobedience to these authorities is disobedience to Christ—to whom we will give an account...

B. Byway of COMFORT

1. I think it's rather important to remember—the governing authority Paul spoke of—was the Roman Empire...
2. And—regardless of when you date Paul's letter to the Romans—Nero was presently Caesar over this Empire...
3. Now—most of you know that—Nero was a very idolatrous, immoral, wicked, unjust, and God-hating ruler...
4. The Roman Empire was oppressive and cruel—it demanded unquestionable allegiance from every citizen...
5. Furthermore—Nero possessed a personal and particular dislike of Christians—who he intensely hated and despised...
6. Rom.8:35-36—"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter..."
7. Now—the tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword—all likely have reference to Nero...
8. Such mistreatment—must have tempted the Roman Christians—to rebel against the governing authorities...
9. Instead—what does Paul say to them—NONE of these things—"Shall separate us from the love of Christ..."
10. Trust Christ through it all—and in the meantime—submit to Rome—providing they don't command you to sin...
11. Now—the application of this to us—21st century American Christians—is rather plain and rather evident...
12. We presently find ourselves under a system—that increasingly has become hostile to the truth of God's word...
13. Now—obviously I trust we all agree that our present situation is far from the situation of the 1st century Christians...
14. But our situations are similar in this—we both live under governing authorities—that have been appointed by God...

C. Byway of AMAZEMENT

1. Here—I want to begin with a confession—as I first read through verses 1-7—I wasn't that excited about them...
2. Not because I doubted whether or not they were the word of God—or whether not they had relevance to us...
3. But because—as I pondered them—I had difficulty in seeing how Christ could be preached in relation to them...
4. But as I thought about—an amazement began to grow within my heart—as two amazing thoughts emerged...
5. [1] Christ submitted to kings—that is—Christ WILLFULLY submitted Himself to the authorities of this world...
6. Jn.19:10-11—"Then Pilate said to Him, Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You? 11 Jesus answered, You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin..."
7. [2] Christ rules over all kings—that is—in reward of His submission and humiliation—all authority is His...
8. Matt.28:18—"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."