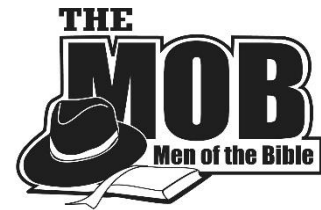


For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:16-17



# Announcements



- **Welcome to the MOB!** Website: [www.ibcmob.net](http://www.ibcmob.net)
- [Unique Service Opportunity](#) to help a Brother Interested? Please send e-mail to [paullogan@aol.com](mailto:paullogan@aol.com) or call 240-888-8103 (leave detailed message, please)



# Memory Verse



## **Romans 13:1-2 (NASB)**

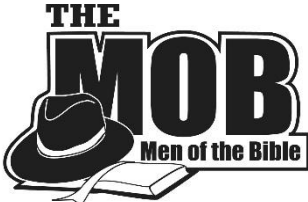
Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

## **Romans 13:1-2 (NASB)**



# Romans

## Outline



Focus	Revelation of God's Righteousness			Vindication of God's Righteousness			Application of God's Righteousness	
	Reference	1:1 – 3:20	3:21 – 5:21	6:1 – 8:39	9:1-29	9:30 – 10:21	11:1-36	12:1 – 13:14
Division	Need for God's Righteousness	Imputation of God's Righteousness	Demonstration of God's Righteousness	Israel's Past: Election	Israel's Present: Rejection	Israel's Future: Restoration	Christian Duties	Christian Liberties
Topic	Sin	Salvation	Sanctification	Sovereignty			Service	
	Doctrinal						Behavioral	
Location & Time	Probably written in <b>Corinth</b> (Greece) around <b>57 AD</b>							





# Last Meeting



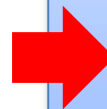
## Scripture:

- [Romans 12:3-21](#)

## Key Thoughts :

### Paul's pattern\*

- DOCTRINE – Romans 1:1 – 11:32
- DOXOLOGY – Romans 11:33-36
- DEDICATION – Romans 12:1-2
- DUTY – Romans 12:3 – 16:27



## Encountering the Book of Romans

Chapter 16

The Christian Mindset: **Responsibilities toward Society**

pages 164 - 168

**How? Use your Spiritual Gifts in love to build up the Body of Christ and manifest God's love in all relationships**



# This Meeting



## Scripture:

- [Romans 13:1-7](#)

## Key Thoughts :

- Authority is instituted by God
- Be subject to authorities
- Pay your taxes

## Encountering the Book of Romans

Chapter 17

Citizens of the World and Citizens of Heaven: Authorities

pages 169 - 173



# Romans 13:1-7 (ESV)



<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> 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.



# Romans 13:1



<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Observation:** Paul levels the field for Jewish and Gentile Christians in their subjection to civil authorities, and includes no caveats.

## **Interpretation:**

1. Paul expounds upon existing and contemporary teaching:

[Daniel 2:20-21](#) / [John 19:1,10-11](#) / [1 Peter 2:13-14](#)

2. Key word: [ὑποτάσσω](#) *hupotassó* to be subordinated, to render obedience

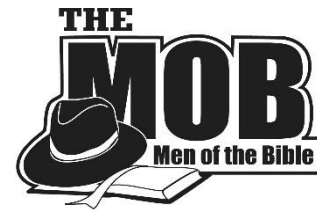
3. Modern notes on 13:1

- Disciplers: Earthly rulers serve as ministers for the common good
- Constable: Government, family, and the church are institutions set up by God
- MacArthur: No distinction between good, bad, moral, immoral, fair, unfair





# Romans 13:2



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

**Observation:** Resisting the authorities makes you subject to their judgment.

**Interpretation:**

1. Paul expounds upon existing and contemporary teaching:

[Genesis 9:6](#) / [Matthew 26:51-52](#) / [1 Peter 2:14](#)

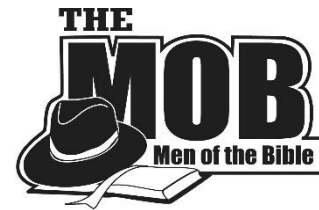
2. Key word: [λήμψονται](#) *lēmψontai* to actively receive or to take

3. Modern notes on 13:2

- Disciplers: Punishment is to be expected for those that resist civil authority
- Constable: Refusal to submit to one's government is tantamount to refusing to submit to God
- MacArthur: There is a right for government to punish... The instruments of punishment are human, but the source of the punishment is divine.



# Romans 13:3-4



<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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.

**Observation:** Rulers – and the fear of them – are better than the alternative.

## **Interpretation:**

1. Paul expounds upon existing and contemporary teaching:

[Judges 17:6](#) / [Isaiah 5:20-21](#)

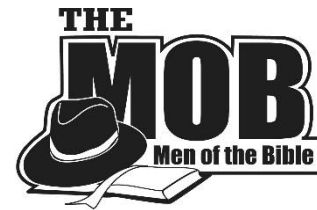
2. Key word: [φοβεῖσθαι](#) *phobeisthai* fear, dread, reverence

3. Modern notes on 13:3-4

- Disciplers: Generally speaking, human laws, which are written to protect basic civil rights, agree with God's will
- Constable: Take this verse at face value, particularly in line with [Romans 8:28](#), rather than read into it the, "what about..."



# Romans 13:5



<sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

**Observation:** Conscience should also drive us to be in subjection.

**Interpretation:**

1. Key word: συνείδησιν *syneidēsin* the inward faculty of moral judgment

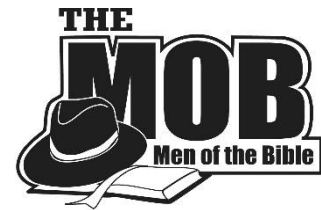
(Remember Romans 2:14-15?)

2. Modern notes on 13:5

- Bible Knowledge: The Christian's conscience prods him to obey God's ordinances
- Disciplers: It is the Holy Spirit who convicts people concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, and if all authority is established by God, then Christians who break the law of man would certainly be convicted by the Spirit of God
- MacArthur: At the end of the day the reason you do right is because God tells you to do right, but the benefit of doing right is a clear conscience



# Romans 13:6-7



<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> 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.

**Observation:** Pay what is owed to the government.

**Interpretation:**

1. Paul expounds upon existing and contemporary teaching:

[Mark 12:13-17](#) (the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with this question)

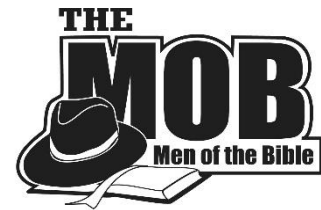
2. Key word: [ὀφειλάς](#) *opheilas* what is due, a duty

3. Modern notes on 13:5

- Disciplers: Christians who are subject to (and benefit from) a government are not exempt from taxation, but are expected to pay their taxes in full
- MacArthur: We are commanded to pay tax – this is an *unqualified* command
- Constable: Individual rulers may be unworthy, but not the institution, which cannot function without revenue



# Closing Thoughts Part 1



How [Romans 13:1-7](#) constrains me and how [Acts 5:27-32](#) frees me

The “what about \_\_\_\_\_” concept from MacArthur:

- When government forbids what God commands, **you obey God**
- When government mandates what God has forbidden, **you obey God**
- ... **and accept the consequences** (subjection)

God’s sovereignty...

- in expanding His church (the Body of Christ)
- In raising up (and taking down) kingdoms and rulers ([Daniel 2:21](#), [Psalm 75:7](#))

Common Grace

- General blessings to all mankind (material possessions, withholding judgment)
- Restraining of sin (through human government)
- Convicting of sin (through the Holy Spirit)

How Paul used his Roman citizenship

- For advancing the Gospel, **not** for ensuring his personal quality of life

Things which my hope is **not** built on (all things less than Jesus’ name)

- Man-made documents and laws
- Man-made correlations of their nation / government as divinely correlated

Nationalism and Patriotism can easily become ***Idolatry*** (Be careful!)



# Closing Thoughts Part 2



Ideals I strive for:

- Discernment ([Romans 12:2](#))
- Objectivity ([Ephesians 4:11-16](#))
- [Exegesis](#) (normal, literal, grammatical, historical, systematic)

Concepts that challenge me:

- Hypocrisy of “religious” leaders
- Selectively applying [Romans 13:1-7](#) (etc.) based on politics & personal preference
- The notion that Christians need to be or stay advantaged

Recommended works by Jesse Johnson

- [Mark 12:13-17 “Rendering Hypocrisy to Whom it is Due”](#)
- [Romans 13:1-8 “The \(Armed\) Force of Grace”](#)
- Blog Post [“Against a ‘Christian Government’”](#)

**“There’s no such thing as a Christian country, and there’s no such thing as a Christian government. But there will be a Christian government in the Millennium with Christ ruling.”**

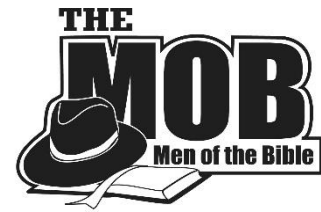
**-- John MacArthur, January 2011**

**“In the New Testament, there is no concept of a Christian government.... There is a reason there are no Mennonite or Baptist countries in the world. We understand that the Gospel in this age does not win, and that the road is narrow (and very few find it!).”**

**-- Jesse Johnson, August 2012**



# Discussion & Application



1. What example did Christ give us for subjection to authority? What did Christ say in [John 13:16](#)? Do you see any correlation?
2. What are the “so that” clauses that deal with subjection to authority?
  - [1 Timothy 2:2](#)
  - [1 Timothy 6:1](#)
  - [Titus 2:9-10](#)
3. Even the oppressive, unjust ruler is God’s servant ([Romans 13:4](#)). How do cruel rulers like [Pharaoh](#), [Nero](#), and [Pontius Pilate](#) serve God’s plan in light of [Romans 8:28](#)?
4. How did [Acts 8:1](#) further the command of [Acts 1:8](#)?
5. What were the benefits of Paul’s Roman citizenship in spreading the Gospel? Are there parallels today? What did Paul say about his heritage and national lineage in [Philippians 3](#)?



# Next Meeting



## Citizens of the World & Citizens of Heaven: Neighbors

Review:

- [Romans 13:1-7](#)

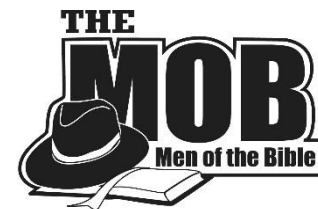
Study:

- [Romans 13:8-14](#)
- [Encountering Romans](#) Chapter 17,  
pages 173 - 176





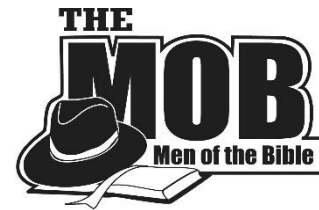
# Closing



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Closing Prayer



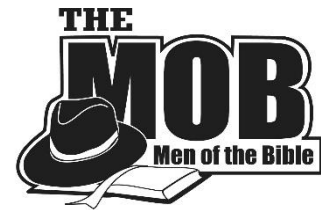
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# Aspects of Observation



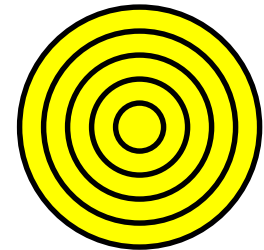
- Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- Emphasized, Repeated, Related, Comparison
- Tone: Emotions, Mood, Commands
- Genre: History, Doctrine, Poetry, Prophecy
- Use of Old Testament passages in the New Testament

What question is this passage answering?

# Aspects of Interpretation

- **Intra-biblical**

- Context / circles of meaning
  - Passage, chapter, book, testament, Bible
- Consistency of theology / doctrines
- Study Bible cross-references in the margins
- Reading from different reliable translations



- **Extra-biblical**

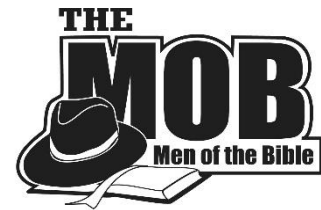
- Commentaries
  - Culture / historical background
  - Theological unpacking and support
- Greek / Hebrew word studies



Summarize the answer to the question



# Aspects of Application



## P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. (30x5)

- What promise should I claim?
- What relationship should I work on?
- What attitude should I adjust?
- What condition should I meet?
- What trespass (sin) should I confess?
- What imperative (command) should I do?
- What challenge should I face?
- What example should I follow?

## S.P.E.C.S. (FoF)

- What sin to forsake?
- What promise to claim?
- What example to follow?
- What command to obey?
- What stumbling block to avoid?

What's the "Big Idea" for application?