

A BELIEVER'S APPROACH TOWARD CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Part 1 of 2

7/4/09

ROMANS 13:1-7

* Sometimes, the civil authorities fight evil

*At other times, the civil authorities perform the evil in society -- (read Biblical history and Biblical prophecy -- read world history)

*I believe that Paul anticipated that the civil authorities would see his letter

Rom. 1:7 Paul was writing to saints in Rome
1 Cor. 15:32 fought with "beasts at Ephesus"

*Romans 13:1-2 -- Be subject to the higher powers -
- Whoever resists the higher powers, resists the ordinance of God

Rom. 13:1 be subject to the higher powers
2 whoever resists the higher powers, resists the ordinance of God

Exod. 2:2-3 Moses' mother
Josh. 2:1-6 Rahab
Dan. 3:13-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
Matt. 4:8-10 Christ -- dealing with the devil
Acts 4:19 Peter and John
Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles
Rev. 13:15-18 prophecy -- future believers?

*Romans 13:3-4 -- Rulers are not a terror to good works -- Civil leaders are ministers (servants) of God to you for good

Rom. 13:3 rulers are not a terror to good works
4 civil leaders are ministers (servants) of God to you for good

Matt. 20:25-28 Christ's perspective
Acts 13:27-28 Paul preached -- treatment against Christ
Acts 16:20-21 Paul had been taken before magistrates
22-24 Paul was beaten and imprisoned
Acts 17:5-6 Paul had been taken before rulers of the city
7 Paul was accused of speaking against Caesar
Acts 21:31-33 chief captain (soldiers & centurions) took Paul
Acts 22:24 chief captain commanded them to scourge Paul
Acts 24:27 Felix -- willing to show the Jews a pleasure
Acts 25:9 Festus -- willing to do the Jews a pleasure
2 Tim. 1:16-18 in chains

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4 HELPFUL REMINDERS

- * Believers should pray for civil leaders
- 1 Tim. 2:1-2 supplications and intercessions for those in authority -- a quiet and peaceable life
- * Believers can serve in civil government
- Gen. 41:41-44 Joseph became Pharaoh's chief assistant
- Esther 2:17 Esther became queen -- (to a Persian king)
- *Believers can exercise their civil rights -- (should not be preoccupied with rights) -- (on 2 separate occasions, Paul used his rights for his own welfare -- 3rd time, for the gospel)
- Acts 16:20-21 Paul had been taken before magistrates
- 22-24 Paul was beaten and imprisoned
- 37-39 after his release from prison, Paul mentioned his Roman citizenship
- Acts 22:24 chief captain commanded them to scourge Paul
- 25-29 Paul asserted his Roman citizenship
- Acts 23:11 Lord -- you shall bear witness of Me in Rome
- Acts 23:24-35 religious leaders accused Paul before Felix
- Acts 25:1-7 religious leaders accused Paul before Festus
- 8 Paul -- denied violating the laws of the Jews, the temple or against Caesar
- 9 Festus asked Paul if he was willing to be judged in Jerusalem
- 10-11 Paul replied -- I stand at Caesar's judgment seat -- I appeal unto Caesar
- 12 Festus complied with Paul's request
- Acts 26:1-23 Paul spoke before King Agrippa
- 32 King Agrippa told Festus -- this man might have been free, except he appealed unto Caesar
- Acts 28:17-20 Paul explained to some chief Jews why he chose to appeal unto Caesar
- * Believers should be wise and harmless
- Matt. 10:16 wise as a serpent -- harmless as a dove
- Gen. 19:13-17 sometimes, it's best to leave evil
- John 17:14-15 when not leave -- ask God to help resist evil
- Acts 25:10-11 sometimes -- appeal process of civil system
- Matt. 5:25 sometimes -- quickly avoid the civil system
- Matt. 5:38-42 sometimes -- quickly cooperate