

## **WAS PAUL WRONG OR WAS PAUL WISE?**

(Using Romans 13:2-4 to make my point)

5/23/20

- \* Today -- I have the opportunity to give a sermon
  - \* Title of sermon -- Was Paul Wrong or Was Paul Wise?
  - \* Main text of sermon -- Romans 13:2-4
  - \* Through the years -- I have talked about this subject
  - \* 2/2/2019 -- Two presentations (Romans 13:1-4 & Romans 13:5-7)
  - \* 12/17/11 -- I covered much of the same material
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- \* Let's begin this study by mentioning 3 foundational concepts
1. Sometimes, civil authorities fight evil
  2. At other times, civil authorities perform the evil in society
  3. I believe that the apostle Paul anticipated that the civil authorities would see his letter
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- \* Certainly, in Romans 13:1-7 there are clear instructions

Romans 13:1	be subject to the governing authorities
Romans 13:1	for there is no authority except from God --
	and the
	authorities are appointed by God
1 Samuel 8:4-22	God allowed them to pick
Romans 13:3,5,6	do what is good -- be subject -- pay taxes
Matthew 22:21	Christ -- render to Caesar and to God
Romans 13:7	render taxes, customs, fear, honor

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- \* In Romans 13:2 -- we read statements where the apostle Paul was either wrong or wise

- \* Whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God
- \* Those who resist will bring judgment on themselves
- \* 5 Examples of people resisting the authority

1. Moses' mother -- resisted Pharaoh  
Exod. 1:22 Pharaoh commanded  
Exod. 2:2-3 Moses' mother -- resisted Pharaoh
2. Rahab -- resisted the king of Jericho  
Josh. 2:1-2 Joshua sent 2 spies to Rahab  
3 the king said to Rahab -- turn in the spies  
4-6 Rahab hid the men and misled the soldiers
3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego -- resisted  
Dan. 3:1-7 Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold  
8-12 people turned in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego  
13-15 an enraged Nebuchadnezzar -- called them to him  
16-18 they resisted King Nebuchadnezzar
4. Joseph, Mary and Christ -- escaped  
Matt. 2:16 Herod commanded  
13-14 Joseph, Mary and Christ escaped to Egypt
5. Peter and John -- resisted the council  
Acts 4:13-18 the council commanded Peter and John to avoid  
speaking about  
the Son of God  
19 they resisted the council  
Acts 5:24-28 the council commanded Peter and John again  
29 they resisted the council again

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\* In Romans 13:3-4 -- we read statements where  
the apostle Paul was either wrong or wise

- \* Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil
- \* Do what is good and you will have praise from the same
- \* They are God's servants to you for good

- 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	Paul was in chains
1 Tim. 2:1-2	supplications and intercessions for those in authority -- a quiet and peaceable life
Titus 3:1	be subject to rulers and authorities
2	speak evil of no one

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When Paul wrote those words in Romans 13:2-4, was he wrong?  
 When Paul wrote those words in Romans 13:2-4, was he wise?

1. Sometimes, civil authorities fight evil
2. At other times, civil authorities perform the evil in society
3. I believe that the apostle Paul anticipated that the civil  
authorities would see his letter

My conclusion -- Paul was NOT wrong -- Paul was wise