

## Christian Living Part 2

### Romans 13

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- 12: Attitude Toward God, Brethren, Enemies

#### **1. Attitude Towards Government – Romans 13:1-7**

- 1: Authority: right to exercise power; established: to place in order; God allows and uses
- Rule: as long as a local/state/nat'l law does not violate God's directives, obey it! Illogical? Obey it! Inconsistent? Obey it! Show favoritism? Obey it!
- 2: resists: *against + arranged*. Why obey? 1] He instituted; 2] opposers rec. condemnation
- 3: as a rule, even bad gov'ts like good citizens. Fear: terror; phobos: phobia
- 4: minister: servant, 12:7; Ch. 12 emphasizes we don't need to take vengeance & one way this is accomplished is through public courts; sword: can include capital punishment
- 5: not simply because it is the safest thing to do, it is the right thing to do.
- 6-7 regarding what good citizenship entails
- 6: By not paying our taxes, we are not only cheating the gov't, we are also disobeying God!
- 7: all: civil authorities, from SM to LG; tax: 'tribute' paid by a subjugated nation; custom: paid for public ends. Pay your taxes. Respect your officials.

#### **2. Attitude Toward Neighbors – Romans 13:8-10**

- 8: owe nothing to anyone: 'don't fail to do what I just told you to do!'; Ps. 37:21: wicked borrows and does not pay back. NASB; love: a debt we never can pay
- 9: commands 7, 6, 8, 10; neighbors: GK: near, lit. one who is nearby
- 10: not: since love is the fulfilling of the Law, we have no more need for God's Laws

#### **3. A Summary – Romans 13:11-14**

- 11: analogy of a parent walking a child and giving him instructions for the day
- do this: backwards & forewords
- no specific 'time' to 'wake up' – it is always NOW

- Salvation: ultimate when JC returns; need to wake up – Christ could come anytime! This fact was always on the minds of the 1stC Chr.
- 12: time to wake up and get ready! After wake, now what? Deeds of darkness: sinful acts
- Phillips: “Fling away the things men do in the dark.”
- 13: as in the day: live our lives openly, unashamed to be examined by all
- 6 examples of deeds of darkness
- Carousing: excessing feasting; NIV orgies
- Sexual promiscuity: ‘bed’ euphemism for sexual intercourse
- Sensuality: excess, absence of restraint
- Strife: contention
- Jealousy: cannot be content with what you have
- 14: how to avoid ‘deeds of darkness’? 2; 1+1-
- 1] urged to put on the Lord JC – cf. 6:3-4
- 2] make no provision [forethought] for the flesh in regard to lusts
- 11-14: God’s wake-up call for lethargic Chr.
- Since the Lord can come at any time, we each ought to ask ourselves: am I ready for Him to come?

### Lessons:

1. We, as Christians, are to always respect the gov’t, even if we don’t like the person/people. Paul didn’t like all his rulers, yet he was respectful before them, Ac. 22-28.
2. It is imperative that we conduct ourselves with regards to our neighbors. We should always treat them the way that we desire to be treated, Mt. 7:12.
3. Don’t be asleep in life so to speak. We should always be awake and ready to meet Jesus Christ. If you are not ready for Christ to return – get ready and stay ready today!

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