

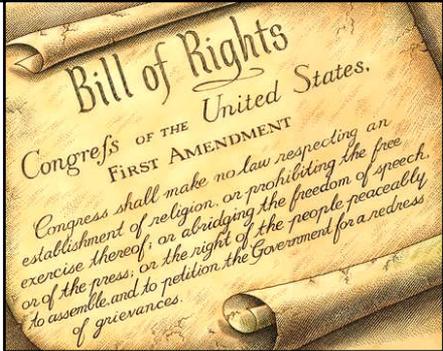


# Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

April 25, 2021

In these trying political times the challenge to Christians to keep their perspective has been difficult. Some perhaps can be drawn into activities and roles that challenge their faith and ultimate direction; i.e. Heaven. Let's take a look at the scriptures for refreshing of where our hope lies and what our Biblical responsibilities are. Steve Frazier



## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE GOVERNMENT

### The Lesson Text

Rom. 13: 1-7; 1 Pet. 2: 13-16

1 Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment.

3 For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same.

4 For he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

6 For for this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

13 Be subject to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether to be king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evil-doers and for praise to them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that by well-doing ye should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as bondservants of God.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matt. 22: 21b.)

**DEVOTIONAL READING.**—Matt. 22: 15-22.

### Daily Bible Readings

July 23.	M.	.....	Jesus Pays His Half-shekel Tax (Matt. 17: 24-27)
July 24.	T.	.....	Duty to God Comes First (Acts 4: 13-22)
July 25.	W.	.....	Christians Rejoice in Suffering (Acts 5: 33-42)
July 26.	T.	.....	An Example of Such Suffering (Acts 16: 19-34)
July 27.	F.	.....	Paul Uses His Roman Citizenship (Acts 22: 22-30)
July 28.	S.	.....	Paul Appeals Unto Caesar (Acts 25: 6-12)
July 29.	S.	.....	Brethren Not to Use the Courts (1 Cor. 6: 1-11)

**TIME.**—A.D. 58 or 59 for Romans; A.D. 63 for 1 Peter.

**PLACES.**—Paul wrote from Corinth to Rome; Peter from Babylon to churches of Asia Minor.

**PERSONS.**—Paul, Peter, and Christians then and now.

### **Thoughts on the Lesson Text**

First and foremost, as the text of the lesson states, government is of God. Some hold the view that government is of the devil because the Jews asked for a king contrary to the will of the Lord (I Sam. 8:4-9). This view does not however, explain why there were governments in the nations about the Jews. There were great nations in the days of Abraham. Amraphel (Gen. 14:1), one of the kings, is now known to be Hammurabi whose code of laws is very similar to the laws given by Moses. Nebuchadnezzar, many years later than Hammurabi, learned that God rules in the affairs of nations, and that He sets up kings and removes them at His pleasure. (Dan. 4:17,18, 34-37.) Furthermore, we are not to think that the Jews had no form of human government before they asked for a king. Quite the contrary. Moses appointed seventy men to help him judge the people. (Num. 11:10-16.) And when the Jews came into Canaan, they were ruled by judges. God objected to the appointment of a king, not because that particular form of government was inherently evil, but because of what He knew the kings would do. (I Sam. 8:10-18.)

Common sense should tell us that governments are necessary, and always have been, to settle disputes between people, to punish the criminal element, to keep records of property, and to legalize transactions between people. Order is inherently divine, as can be seen in all of God's creation. Without government, chaos will prevail. Even if there were no criminals among us, there would still be a need for a government.

Unfortunately, our present day danger lies in too much government. The government is seen and is becoming as a sort of god-father, or a rich old uncle, to whom individuals go when they get in a tight financial, or even moral predicament. Christians are rightfully to "pay tribute to whom tribute is due". But no child of God should allow a duty to be

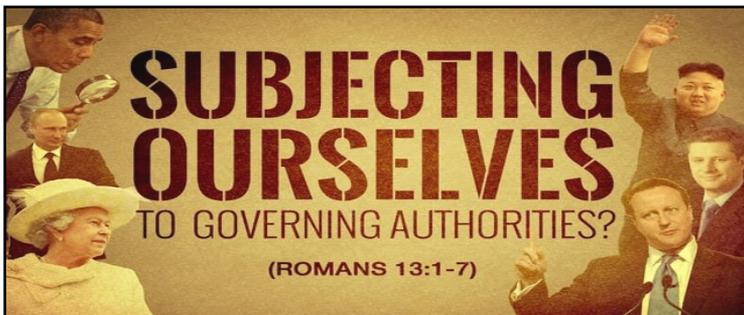


imposed by his government that forces him to disobey God, or which involves him in such activities as make impossible the cultivation of the graces of a Christian.

In summary, some bullet points of the text are helpful.

- ♦ Render to Caesar his dues.
- ♦ Render to God the things that are His
- ♦ No conflict between God and Caesar
- ♦ Our mutual obligations from Romans 13; & I Pet. 2
  - Let every soul be in subjection
  - There is no power but of God
  - Powers that be are ordained of God
  - He that resists the power, resists God's order
  - Rulers are not a terror to good work.
  - He is a minister of God to you for good.
  - He bears not the sword in vain to avenge evil
  - Be in subjection for conscience sake
- ♦ Subject for the Lord's Sake
  - Be subject to every ordinance of man.
  - For the Lord's sake.
  - Whether to the king as supreme, or governors
  - Vengeance on evil-doers.
  - Put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
  - As free, and not using your freedom as a cloak of wickedness.
  - As bondservants of God.

Adapted by Steve Frazier



*Image used as tongue-in-cheek and no political statement. SF*



## GLAD TIDINGS

***“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”—Psalm 33:12***

While we know that the kingdom of our citizenship is not of this earth, we can love and embrace the beauty of being part of a nation that was conceived and began with inspiration from the principles of God. A couple of verses from a familiar hymn. **SF**

**“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee Samuel F. Smith—1832**

My country, tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim’s pride.  
From every mountain-side - Let freedom ring.  
Our father’s God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty, - To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom’s holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King!

### Order of Worship April 25, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Derek Steen
Song Leader—PM	Steve Frazier
Lord’s Table	Gary Barber
Sermon—AM	Devin Barber
Sermon—PM	Phillip Steen

Continue prayers for those on our list and for the free course of the gospel.  
*1 John 5:14* Editor: Steve Frazier

### **Marietta church of Christ**

**8150 Driggers St.**

**Jacksonville, FL 32220**

Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)

**Hebrews 10:24-25**