

CHRIST APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF PENNSYLVANIA [Mount of Redemption]

5200 PASCHALL AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143. TEL/FAX 215 724 5711

BIBLE STUDY

COURSE OUTLINE: ROMANS 13 v 1-14

JANUARY 12TH, 2011

NEXT WEEK: ROMANS 14 v 1-23

COURSE TITLE: SUBMISSION UNTO AUTHORITIES

13:1 To submit by definition is to yield, to accept or to surrender in totality without complaint or defiance; while **Authority refers** to the legal power or right conferred on a person to function in a particular office.

Subjection to the government is the obligation of mankind, and not just **Christians or Believers**. It is a **MUST, not optional but an absolute necessity**. Apostle Paul began this epistle by appealing to all of us as believers to be receptive to all authorities and be submissive unto them. Every soul or believer must accept the fact that: **the higher powers are established by God [1Peter 2 v 13, 15, 14-18, Acts 5 v 29]**. At the time Paul was writing this epistle, the civil rulers, majority of them were probably pagans; nevertheless, the persecution of Paul at this point in time did not change his conviction that: **civil governments are ordained by God and are to be respected and submitted to**.

The lesson derived in this verse is that: **Christians are to obey and submit unto civil government. However, when it run contrary to the explicit commands of God, we must obey God and be ready to suffer the consequences [Acts 4 v 18-19, Acts 5 v 29]**.

13:2 Paul went further to enlighten us that **any person who refuses to submit unto civil governments is subject to damnation or judgment [Romans 13 v 2]**. Although this damnation is not a reference to eternal judgment nevertheless, it is still **a judgment of God because God has delegated authorities to human government**.

13:3 The purpose of any human government is to uphold the good and punish the evil. Right and wrong in any system are determined by the state. Apostle Paul however is not stating that this will always be true, but he is describing the **“proper and the ideal function of rulers”**. Government officials hold office by virtue of God’s appointment and are primarily **the servants of God in their various offices [Is. 45 v 1]**. Christians are to fear, obey and submit unto the government as long as the government or rulers does not demand that citizens [Christians] should violate God’s word. **In this perspective, Believers are encouraged to claim total allegiance only to Christ [Acts 4 v 18-19, Acts 5 v 29]**.

13:4 The Apostle went further to remind **rulers or governments that they exist primarily for the benefits of their various societies [CIVIL GOVERNMENT, WORK PLACES, CHURCHES and HOMES]**. As rulers, they are expected to protect the general public by maintaining good orders or laws. They have

been given **THE SWORD** which is the symbol representing the authority given unto them to protect her citizens by punishing those who have done what they have determined as wrong. **The symbol of Roman authority on both the national and international levels is THE SWORD.**

The lesson derived is to remind us as Christians that **it is our civil responsibilities to be actively involved in government so that the GOVERNMENT VALUES are consistent with THE WORD OF GOD.**

13:5 Christians are further reminded that their allegiance unto civil government should not be based on the fact that they have the power for wrath [force] but should also be based on conscience sake. Civil authorities and rulers are ordained by God, and in order **to maintain a good conscience, we must duly honor them [Eccl. 8 v 2].**

13:6-7 Because rulers are God's agents who function for the benefit of the society in general, we, as Christians must duly pay our dues [taxes, voting, serving] to our societies. We must also remunerate them adequately for the proper functioning of the society [National, State and local levels].

In the church of God, Gods servants - **Ministers of the gospel [Apostle, Bishop, Pastors, Prophets and Prophetess] must be adequately compensated or remunerated for the smooth running of any church.** IT IS BIBLICAL and by doing so brings abundant blessings unto us as children of God.

13:8 Apostle Paul further advised that we must: **owe no man anything [Romans 13 v 8].** In this context, Paul is not setting down the fiscal policy of paying only cash for everything, but Paul was talking about Christian responsibilities of not acting in such a way towards his fellow man that he incurs any debt other than to **LOVE HIM/HER GENUINELY.**

The lesson derived is that **Love is such a debt that is never paid off.** No matter how much one has lived, we are hence obligated again to **keep on loving one another.** We are not required to love **only our fellow Christians but to extend the same love to all people.**

13:9 Romans 13 v 9 further explained the last statement of Romans 13 v 8 namely: **THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.** Jesus taught that our neighbor is anyone in need [Luke 10 v 25-37]; and this is our **Christian responsibilities.**

13:10-13 In this section, as in other New Testament passages, **the certain coming to the end of the present age is used in this context to provide motivation and encouragement for godly living. [Matt. 25 v 31-46, Mark 13 v 33-37, James 5 v 7-11 and 2Peter 3 v 11-14]**

Apostle Paul also highlighted on some words of importance in these verses as focal points for us all as believers and Christians.

--- **"sleep,** in this context means: **insensitivity to the demands of Christ on the Christian life**

--- **"Now is our salvation nearer"** means the coming of **Christ to deliver us from this sinful world draws nearer every day. ARE WE READY?**

---**“The right”** refers to the time while **Christ is out of the world, and the world has been delivered into the control of the prince of the power of the air [Eph. 2 v 2]**

---**“The day”** is a reference to the time **when Christ will return and establish His reign of righteousness.**

13:14 The Apostle concluded his epistle the way he started by appealing unto us all to: **“Make no provision for the flesh”**. In other words, Paul was advising us as Christians that one should not seek the opportunities to satisfy the deep seated desires of the sin nature, **but to seek occasion to manifest works that are consistent with the new life of Christ.**

The lesson inherent is that believers are exhorted to **display outwardly what has already taken place inwardly, by practicing all the virtues associated with Christ [Gal. 3 v 27]**. That is the essence of PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

NB: Bible Study is on Wednesday's, from 7pm-9pm. Remain blessed as you come in Jesus Name.