

Living in Exile: How to Relate to the Government. Pt 2

Romans 13:1-7

June 11, 2023

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." (Romans 13:1-7; NKJ)

I. Three Scriptural Insights ...

Insight A. Christians realize that Earthly Governments are ordained by God. (v 1)

Insight B. Christians understand that Earthly Governments are appointed by God. (vv 1-2)

Insight C. Christians comprehend God's _____ in Earthly Governments. (vv 3-4)

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil." (vv 3-4)

1. Earthly authorities act as _____!

"And Joseph said to his brothers, 'Please come near to me.' So they came near. Then he said: 'I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold

into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.'" (Genesis 45:4-8; NKJ)

2. Earthly authorities act as God's agents to _____.

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20; NKJ)

3. Earthly authorities act as God's agents to _____.

"... for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, ..." (vv 3-4)

Conclusion Pt 2 – Remember the _____!

1. _____ about your brothers and sisters who are _____ for their _____.
2. _____ for your brothers and sisters who suffer for their faith.
3. _____ to _____ and _____ those who suffer persecution.
4. Remember! God works even in persecution to _____ and _____ his people!