

XLVIII. The Believer's Response to Government - Pt 1

A. The Standard - Submission

1. Let every soul
  - a. for all, but especially for Christians
  - b. Christians should be good citizens
2. be subject to the governing authorities.
  - a. *hupotasso* - to subordinate; to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit
    - i. to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake,
    - ii. whether to the king as supreme, - 1 Pe 2:13
  - b. more than obeying laws, includes honor and respect - 1 Th 4:11-12; 1 Ti 2:1-2; Tit 3:1-2; 1 Pe 2:17
  - c. when exiled, God commanded "seek the welfare of the city" - Jer 29:7
3. Justifiable civil disobedience - Ac 4:19-20; 5:28-29
  - a. the midwives before Pharaoh and Moses' parents - Ex 1:15-21, 22-2:4
  - b. Daniel and 3 friends not eating food -
    - i. they didn't want to defile themselves - had to disobey
    - ii. Appealed and asked permission
  - c. Daniel's 3 friends - Dan 3:16-18
  - d. Daniel - Dan 6

B. The Purpose -

1. God's Sovereign establishment of Government
  - a. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. - Pr 8:15-16; Da 2:21; 4:32; Jo 19:11; Ac 17:24-26
  - b. all power belongs to God - Ps 62:11
    - i. though Satan is the prince of the power of the air - Jo 12:31; Eph 2:1-2; 1 Jo 5:19; 16:11; 14:30
    - ii. God has delegated power to principalities and powers, the divine counsel - Da 10:13
    - iii. Satan is closely identified w/ the kings of the nations - Eze 28:12-14
  - c. Just because some authorities are wicked doesn't mean that God didn't put them there
    - i. they are there as the rod of His wrath - Hab 1:5-6
    - ii. God will hold them accountable for their wickedness - Isa 9:4; 10:5
2. Resistance is against God
  - a. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God,
  - b. Korah and his 250 malcontents against Moses - Nu 16:3,13, 31-35,
  - c. The people that complained about Korah's demise the next day - Nu 16:41,46-48
3. Resistance brings judgment
  - a. those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

- b. Not speaking of God's direct judgment,
- c. will suffer the penalty of breaking the law - vs 4b
- d. Punishment under the Mosaic law
  - i. administered as a matter of justice appropriate to the crime - De 19:21
  - ii. Was supposed to be deterrent to crime - De 17:13
  - iii. Was supposed to be impartial - De 13:6
  - iv. Was supposed to w/o delay - De 25:2; Eccl 8:11
  - v. except for the law provided for pardon and rehabilitation - De 25:3

### C. God's Job for Government

#### 1. To Restrain Evil - vs 3a

- a. For rulers are not a terror to good works,
  - i. Good works are essential to any nations self-preservation
  - ii. Without them, any nation self destructs
- b. but to evil. - 1 Pe 2:14a
  - i. even wicked regimes usually have low crime rates due to harsh punishments
  - ii. Until recently,, murder robbery, and rape were almost non-existent in some communist countries

#### 2. To Promote Good - vs 3b-4a

- a. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?
- b. Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. - 1 Pe 2:14b
- c. For he is God's minister to you for good.

#### 3. To Judge Evil - vs 4b

- a. But if you do evil, be afraid;
- b. for he does not bear the sword in vain;
  - i. The sword is an instrument of death symbolizing the right to inflict punishment - Ge 9:6;
  - ii. for he is God's minister,
  - iii. an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

#### 4. For Conscience's Sake - vs 5

- a. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. - 1 Pe 2:13
  - i. to silence foolish men - 1 Pe 2:15
  - ii. How? By living for God - 1 Pe 2:16-17
- b. 1 Pe 2:13b– 14 whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him