

# **Romans**

**The Righteousness of God  
proven through Messiah,  
King Jesus**

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# Romans

## Section I a breaks into 6 sections:

A) 12:1-2 – Intro & Foundation

**B) 12:3-13 – Church unity thru gifts**

C) 12:14-21 – Church life facing the outside

***C) 13:1-7 – Responsibility toward authorities***

B) 13:8-10 – Overriding responsibility of love

A) 13:11-14 – Living in the light of God's dawning day

*Laid out as a beautiful circle almost structured like a poem*

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# Romans

## Section IC – Romans 13:1-7 Responsibility towards Authority

*Several Possible Interpretations:*

- 1. This passage is a general statement about ruling authorities*
  - 2. It is particularly about the Roman Empire and for the safety of the church there in a historical context*
  - 3. It is a statement that is now true as a result of a victory Jesus has inaugurated with His new Kingdom*
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# Romans

## Section IC – Romans 13:1-7 Responsibility towards Authority

*Background thoughts:*

- 1. Paul is anything but naïve about ruling governments*
  - 2. God can move thru even the worst of government authorities*
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# Romans

John 19:8-11

*When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"*

*Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above." Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*

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# Romans

*Acts 23:1-5*

*And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"*

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# Romans

Paul like Jesus had some basic assumptions about governing bodies.  
What are they?

*1) God is not the maker of a corrupt society*

*2) But... No matter how bad they are, don't just assume God is not involved somehow working*

*3) And do not take matters into your own hands... We are not the judge, and we are not to repay evil with evil*

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# Romans

## Romans 2:6-8

*“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”*

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# Romans

Is. 10:5-12 *Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few; for he says: "Are not my commanders all kings? Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus? As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols as I have done to Samaria and her images?" When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes*

# Romans

*Is. 44:28-45:5 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'" Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God I equip you, though you do not know me,*

# Romans

## RESULT:

*1) The authorities are there as an extension of the justice side of God's righteousness*

*2) The authorities are NOT Divine – Romans 13 is a demotion of sorts against tyranny & totalitarianism = GOD is the ultimate authority!*

*Romans 13:4 (2x they are listed as God's servants)*

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# Romans

Romans 14:17

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

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# Romans

## Section IC – Romans 13:1

And again, I don't think Paul is trying to endorse the Roman government:

- 1) It is rather a general statement about respecting civic authority*
  - 2) And realizing how God has played this out in the Narrative*
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# Romans

## Section IC – Romans 13:5

Why does he say we should submit? Submit because...

*1)not wanting to incur wrath*

*2)your conscience will flush you out if you resist the one God places over you*

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# Romans

## Closing thoughts:

*1) We long for justice, so don't fight it then when it comes*

*Tom Wright - "Nobody enjoys the presence of a referee or umpire when they are trying to foul an opponent; but everybody appeals to them when the other side does it."*

*2) As followers of Jesus we MUST know our history - Assyria, Babylon, Rome, etc. = God can work thru even the most evil of authorities*

*3) Jesus response is our flag - Jesus offering the other cheek...far more is gained*

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