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August 2, 2017
"Citizen, Resident or Alien"
Romans 13: 1-7
David Self

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1. **What is the Right Response to Government?** *"Everyone must submit to the governing authorities"* (1a)

2. **Who Put Them in Charge?** *"for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God."* (1b)

3. **Is Civil Disobedience Ever Warranted?** *"So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves."* (2)

4. **Why is Obedience to Government Necessary?** *"Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience."* (5)

    A. **Reward for obedience** *"For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval."* (3)

    B. **Punishment for lawbreakers** *"For government is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong."* (4)

5. **What is the Proper Function of Government?** *"And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's public servants, continually attending to these tasks. [7] Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor..."* (6-7) These verses are, in effect, an elaboration of Jesus' command to *"render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesars..."* (Matt. 22:21).

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