

The background is a detailed, sepia-toned illustration of a Roman harbor scene. In the foreground, a large wooden sailing ship with multiple masts and rigging is docked at a quay. Several smaller boats are visible in the water. In the background, a city with Roman-style architecture, including a prominent tower or church spire, is situated on a hill overlooking the harbor. The scene is rendered in a fine-lined, etched style.

ROMANS

FULFILLMENT
WEEK TWENTY- TWO

**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY AND
PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM,
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW
WITH HOPE BY THE POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

ROMANS 15:13 NIV

**SCAN TO LET US
KNOW YOU ARE
PARTICIPATING**



WEEK TWENTY-TWO

In week twenty-two, we will study Romans 13:1-14. Paul will instruct us further on how to operate in society, specifically commanding us to obey and honor government. He will also exhort us to love one another and go without owing anyone anything.

SERMON NOTES



1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13:1-14 ESV

ROMANS WEEK 22 DAY 1

READ: ROMANS 13:1-2

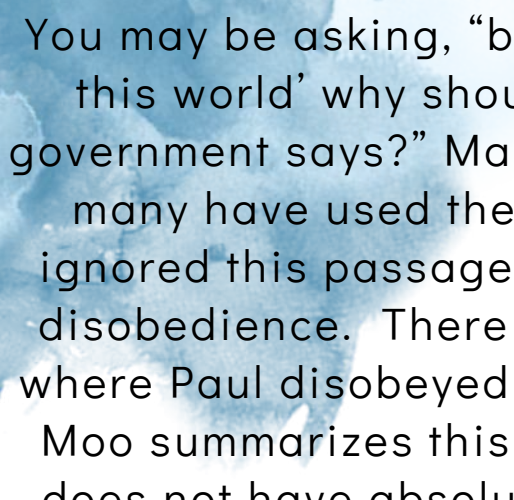
How does what we learned in chapter 12 prepare us for what Paul says in these verses?

“Every person” in the Greek is the word *pasa psychē* encompasses all without exceptions

“Submit” in the Greek is the word *hypotassethaí* mainly infers recognizing or confirming order or placement

“authorities” comes from the Greek word *exousia* which broadly refers to possession and exercise of typically legitimate power


How does the definitions of these words in the Greek inform you of what Paul is saying in these verses?



You may be asking, “but I am not to be ‘conformed to this world’ why should I just obey everything the government says?” Many people would be asking this, many have used these verses to blindly follow or ignored this passage to disrespect and justify their disobedience. There are of course many situations where Paul disobeyed authority over them. Douglas J Moo summarizes this in this way, “The government does not have absolute rights over the believer, for government, like every human institution, is subordinate to God himself.”

HOW DO YOU RECONCILE WHAT PAUL IS
COMMANDING HERE AND THE TENSION OF NOT
BLINDLY FOLLOWING IF IT CONTRADICTS
GOD’S WORD?





LOVE DOES NO WRONG TO
A NEIGHBOR; THEREFORE
LOVE IS THE FULFILLING
OF THE LAW.
ROMANS 13:10 ESV

ROMANS WEEK 22 DAY 2

READ: ROMANS 13:3 - 5

How do you feel like Paul's word relate or do not relate to our government today?



How could Paul say that government was good? That government punished correctly? The government of his time and before (Pharaoh, for example) did lots of things that seemed outside of what God would have wanted. Beverly R Gaventa says, "all human authority exists for God's own purposes. That is not to say that authorities intend to fulfill God's purposes; nothing Paul says about Pharaoh suggests that the Egyptian ruler thought of himself as God's agent or desired to obey God's command. In addition, nothing here stipulates that good inheres in the authority of Pharaoh as such, either by virtue of his birth or his actions."

How does Gaventa's example of Pharaoh help you understand Paul's words about government?



The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

Romans 13:4 NLT

Paul has told us in chapter 12 that only God can have vengeance, but in these verses he almost gives permission to the government to do so. Tim Keller says, "God's plan is that only some people bear the sword- we cannot all do it. In summary we submit so that the government can work. If you don't submit, there is no possibility for social order."

WHAT BENEFIT DO YOU SEE AS ONLY SOME
"BEARING THE SWORD"? HOW DO YOU SEE THIS
IN OUR CULTURE TODAY?



ROMANS WEEK 22 DAY 3

READ: ROMANS 13:6 - 7

Why do you think Paul specifically speaks about taxes in this passage?



Around this time where Paul is writing this letter there is some evidence that there was some sort of unrest over taxation. Though we are unsure if Paul knew about this specific issue (reminder- had never been to Rome), it is possible he is informing the church in Rome to not participate. It is also possible that he is echoing Jesus commands, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” In Matthew 22 when the pharisees ask him about taxes. It is equally as possible that taxes were the most tangible and legitimate example in instructing the Romans. What we do know that Paul would have understood was that taxes were not helping others, but only furthering the mission of the ruler in charge, in this case Julius Caesar. Taxes were used to further his army, life and power.

Why would Paul command to fund such power?



Paul would have understood the risk of the Romans faith in this passage and may have just been warning them to stay out of trouble as much as possible. Respect and honor are required to the people in authority in our lives, but that does not mean we cannot disagree or have to bow to their every command when it is contrary to what God has said. Beverly R Gaventa says, “Yet it is especially important to see what Paul says and doesn’t say. He does not equate the authorities with God who puts them in place, but he locates them in God’s act of ordering things.” In other words, government is not God and we are not to obey it as if it were God. Government and the people put in authority are human, just like us. There should be caution in making political leaders a god and worshiping as so. We should pray for our leaders, respect them and as best we can live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18). God has put leaders, rulers and emperors in power and at the end of the day are responsible to God for how they conduct themselves.

HOW DOES OBEYING GOVERNMENT AND “PAYING TAXES” PRACTICALLY LOOK LIKE TODAY?



ROMANS WEEK 22 DAY 4

READ: ROMANS 13:8 - 10

Here again, Paul turns back to love. What does he say about love in this context?



Paul compares the law and love. Loving our neighbors- as Romans 12 speaks about- fulfills the law. You cannot love your neighbor and murder them, steal from them, covet them, etc. It is in loving them that helps you fulfill the commandments. Tim Keller says. "the laws are more than simply guidelines; they are 'love lines.'"

How do you see the law and love connect in your own heart?



Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code—don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of—finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total.

Romans 13:8-10 The Message

This kind of love is impossible in our human bodies. No matter how much any of us try we cannot love people so genuinely that these commandments are fulfilled. This is why Christ came, so that he could fulfill the law. It is only God's love that must overflow in us that we can love our neighbor as God does.

HOW DO YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE
OVERFLOWN WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO
BE ABLE TO LOVE OTHERS?

ROMANS WEEK 22 DAY 5

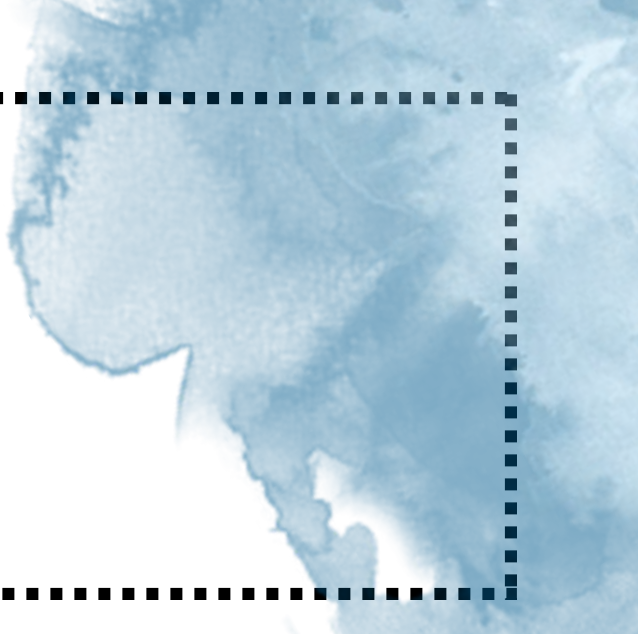

READ: ROMANS 13:11-13

What does it mean to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”?



I specifically love how the NLT translates these verses. Read through the verses below and write a response on the following page.

¹¹ This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.



Paul is not saying that the time of Jesus' return is coming "soon" as in, in the next few weeks or days, but is telling the Romans to be ready and that someday Jesus will return. He says to "put on" or "clothe" yourself with Jesus. In other words, dress for success. Similarly when you dress a certain way it can impact your attitude or demeanor. If we put on the armor of God, we will be more prepared to whether the weight of this world.

HOW DOES PAUL'S COMMAND, "CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST" IMPACT HOW YOU ACT AND HOW OTHERS SEE YOU?



REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

WHAT VERSES (OR VERSE) HAVE STUCK OUT TO
YOU THE MOST THIS WEEK?



WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING
YOU TO DO OR BELIEVE THIS WEEK?





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Created by Katie Anderson