

Should A Christian Pay His Taxes?

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to death, thrown to lions, and tortured in unthinkable ways; yet he still paid His taxes.

“Why,” ponder many, “would the all-knowing Saviour support such a thing?” Because He knew his Father ordained government, and that He and we should support it and try to improve it. Yes, there always will be and have been those in government who are corrupt. These people use their power to meet their own selfish goals. Nevertheless, the government has a necessary God-given role in the lives of its people. It should be to reward good and punish evil. It is the government that should arrest those that do wrong. It should be the government that legislates righteousness and protects its people from those trying to take away what God has allowed them to have.

Immediately most respond, “Well, that is not happening today.” The government certainly is not enforcing righteousness, and they are even perverting what is right. However, they should be encouraging and legislating what is right, and that is where a Christian’s intervention in speaking up and standing for righteousness should alter it and

help it be more God-fearing and law-abiding. We are supposed to be the light and salt to help our environment be more God-fearing and law-obeying! It is our support, intervention, and stand that could help the government be what God intends it to be.

“ ... 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”

Romans 13:1-7

The Nation’s Strength

Author Unknown

I know three things must always be

*To keep a nation strong and free.
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,*

*With busy, happy loved ones near.
One is a ready heart and hand
To love, and serve, and keep the land.*


*One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive.*

*God keep them always,
everywhere:*

The hearth, the flag, the place of prayer.

“A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.” — Gerald R. Ford, 38th U. S. President

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What God Says about Government

Bill Brinkworth



As a Christian, I love righteousness. Much of what most governments do is against godly principles and, unfortunately, is unrighteous. My spirit is grieved by what leaders are doing; from legalizing the murder of little babies, to stepping up acceptance to let older and sick people die because of the money required to attend to them, forcing the country to accept sinful lifestyles, fighting wars for monetary reasons, removing freedoms that were earned by the blood of past patriots, rewarding ungodly behavior, and punishing righteousness. As my grievance list grows, my blood pressure goes up. If I had my way, I would stop the ungodliness immediately and throw ungodly rulers out of office

this instant. God however, thinks differently.

Romans 13 gives God’s perspective on government. We are commanded to be “subject to the higher powers”. We are to let

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“Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar’s. And he [Jesus] said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s.”

Luke 20:24-25

Among Christians, there is often the question, “Should we

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“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

— Edmund Burke

**VOTE WHEN YOU
HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY!**

What God Says ...

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them rule. We are also told that God allows them to be in that position (vs. 1), and that if men oppose them they “shall receive to themselves damnation (vs. 2).” Whoa, I want to get those ungodly politicians far from being able to make any decisions and God is telling me that I will have to answer to Him if I do so. Gulp! Wait a minute. What do I do? Obey God, naturally.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

Romans 13:1-2

Paul tells us in Romans 13 that if we resist the governmental powers over us, we are violating God’s law. The law of the land is necessary. It curtails wanton sin. Without a ruling body everyone would do what they thought was best and anarchy would rule. All citizens would suffer. There

would be no order.

God allows the person that is ruling to do so. Two times the ruler is called a minister of God (Rom. 12:4, 6). Proverbs 8:15 reminds us, “By me kings reign and princes decree justice.” John 19:11 states “... Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above” Like it or not, the power ruling our country is allowed by God. God could easily remove the ruler, if it were His will.

Obviously, not all rulers are just. There are “good and evil” leaders. When Paul was writing this, he certainly was remembering the evil, destructive ruler that was killing Christians at the time; but the point was God allowed him to be in position.

Why would God allow so many godless leaders to lead the people the wrong way? I do not have the answers to that question. I do know that many times the people get closer to God, when the government oppresses them or rules unjustly. In America, the leaders we have are voted in. We, as a people, have

chosen them to take control. A poor, elected leader in our country speaks volumes of the people who voted him in. We got what we (not all of us, of course) wanted. Hopefully, a bad leader will drive people to their knees and looking toward God.

Christians need to be outstanding examples in civil life. We are often the only example of how a Christian should behave that most of the world will ever see. It is our responsibility to be a good testimony for God by heeding His commands and trusting that He knows better. We need to support and pray for our leaders. While we have the opportunity (by voting), we need to do all we can to make sure the best, most God-honoring-and-obeying officials are in office. Honoring the authority allowed over us is honoring God.

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support government by paying taxes?” Here in Luke 20 is the answer from Christ; yes, we should pay our taxes.

Knowing that the religious “powers” of His time were trying to trap Him, Jesus answered them wisely. Christ knew they wanted Him to answer that it was wrong to pay taxes to the Romans, so they could turn Him in and let the government get rid of Him. His

answer surprised and quieted them. He told the people that they should pay their taxes.

Some Christians today make the stand that they will not pay their taxes, support their government, or even have any part in defending their country. Their defense is often, “The government today is doing wrong things. I will not help them do wrong with my money. I will not give them my money so they can abort babies, encourage homosexual activity, and do other things that I know are against what God wants us to do.”

No, God does not want anyone to purposely and directly support (as sending donations to any organization that condones sin) murder of little babies, homosexuality, and any other activity that God specifically forbids, but He does want us to support and help our government do more of His commands.

Jesus paid His taxes (Matthew 17:24-27), and He knew what the government did with His tax money. It may have been His money that paid the soldiers’ salaries that nailed Him to the cross. Christ knew what was going to happen to Him in the future, and He knew who would have part in His death. Still He paid His taxes. Jesus also knew that it would be the same Roman government that would extend their rage against Christians and have them burned

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“I am for doing good for the poor, but ... I think the best way of doing good for the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. I observed ... that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer.”

— Benjamin Franklin