

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 13

Lesson 16

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's lesson or lecture what does it mean to you to be a *living sacrifice*?

2. In Romans 12 Paul beseeched believers, by the mercies of God, to place their lives on God's altar. In other words, Paul was urging believers to dedicate their lives completely to God and His service. After beseeching believers in this way, Paul began to elaborate on the behavior and attitude of a life completely devoted to God. In Romans 13 Paul expounded on what a devoted Christian's attitude should be toward government, people, and the times we live in. If someone struggles with these instructions, it is usually because they need a deeper devotion to Jesus. Read Romans 13 and allow God's Spirit to move you to a greater dedication to Him. Use the following sections to comment on how God uses each of these for our good and His glory:
 - a. Romans 13:1-2

 - b. Romans 13:3-7

 - c. Romans 13:8-10

 - d. Romans 13:11-14

3. Ask God to deepen your devotion to Him and make you a *living sacrifice*.

*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep;
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

Romans 13:11

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 13:1-2

1. In Romans 13 Paul continued to give the believers practical exhortations on conducting their lives as a *living sacrifice* to God. Use Romans 13:1a to record his next exhortation.
 - a. According to Romans 13:1b, why must believers do this?
 - (1) Link this with the following verses and record your thoughts:
 - (a) Proverbs 21:1
 - (b) 1 Peter 2:13-15
2. According to Romans 13:2a, what is the person who resists *authority* ultimately resisting?
 - a. Why is this a sobering reality?
 - b. Use Acts 4:18-20 and 5:27-29 to describe an exception to this.
3. What is the fate of those who *resist* authority? Romans 13:2b
4. When Paul wrote this epistle to the believers in Rome, Nero was the reigning Emperor. He was cruel, sadistic, and deranged. Nero lived a life of debauchery, murdering scores of innocent people, including Christians. Ultimately he would be responsible for the Apostle Paul's murder. In light of this, why was Paul's exhortation concerning *the governing authorities* remarkable?
5. How does the reality of God's ultimate *authority* over your life speak to you?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 13:3–7

1. Read Romans 13:3–4 (NLT), *For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 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.* Answer the following:
 - a. What is the attitude of those doing wrong?
 - b. Describe the role and purpose of those in authority.
 - (1) With this in mind, how are believers to conduct themselves?
2. According to Romans 13:5, why is it necessary that we *be subject* to authority?
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on the need for a clean *conscience*:
 - (1) Acts 24:16
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 1:12
 - (3) 1 Peter 3:16
3. Because a ruler is God’s minister, what are we also to do? Romans 13:6
4. From Romans 13:7, in your own words summarize Paul’s final thoughts on:
 - a. *Taxes*
 - b. *Customs*
 - c. *Fear* (Respect)
 - d. *Honor*
 - (1) Link this with Matthew 22:15–22 and share your thoughts.
5. How does submission to government showcase a believer’s faith in God?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 13:8–10

1. After exhorting the believers regarding their responsibility to those in authority, Paul went on to instruct them concerning their conduct toward one another. How does the admonition of Paul in Romans 13:8a specifically speak to you?
 - a. According to Romans 13:8b, what was Paul's reason for this instruction?
2. Observe the *commandments* listed in Romans 13:9a. Why do you think all of these are *summed up* in the command to *love your neighbor as yourself* (Romans 13:9b)?
 - a. Link this with Jesus' declaration in Matthew 22:35–40. What do you see?
3. The Greek word for *fulfillment* in Romans 13:10 is *pleroma*, which means *completion, total filling, or abundance*. How does this minister to you concerning what *love* accomplishes?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a and comment on the uniqueness of God's *love*.
 - a. List some reasons why God's love is superior.
5. Share a current situation in which you need, by God's grace, to manifest this kind of *love*.
 - a. Take a moment to pray and ask God for an abundant outpouring of His love!

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 13:11–14

1. Considering Paul's previous exhortations, according to Romans 13:11 why are we to *do this*?
 - a. Briefly describe the *times* we live in.
 - b. What puts you to *sleep*?
2. Read Romans 13:12–13a (NLT), *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. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see.* In light of the approaching day of salvation, note and comment on what you need to:
 - a. *Remove*
 - b. *Put on*
 - c. Why is it important to *live decent lives* in these dark days?
 - (1) Link this with Philippians 2:15 and share your thoughts.
3. From Romans 13:13b observe the behavior that is improper for the believer. Contrast this with Romans 13:14 (NLT), *Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.* How does this speak to you?
 - a. Use the following to comment on walking *properly* in these times:
 - (1) 1 Thessalonians 5:5–8
 - (2) 1 Peter 4:7
 - (3) 1 John 3:2–3
4. What do you need to remove from your life in order to *make no provision for the flesh*?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Our attitude as believers is critical in light of the *time* in which we live. With this in mind, use this week's study to share what speaks to you concerning your attitude:
 - a. Toward *the governing authorities* (Romans 13:1-7)
 - b. Toward your *neighbor* (Romans 13:8-10)
 - c. Toward the *time* (Romans 13:11-14)
2. Briefly explain the impossibility of these objectives without first presenting your life to God as a *living sacrifice*.

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness,
and let us put on the armor of light.*

Romans 13:12