

The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 13

“God & Country!”



Go for God!

> Let's apply 3 keys for God & Country:

> Key #1 – (v1-7) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN GOVERNMENT!

> Key #2 – (v8-10) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN SOCIETY!

> Key #3 – (v11-14) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN THESE LAST DAYS!

> Key #1 – (v1-7) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN GOVERNMENT!

(v1-5) Christians are called to be subject to the government and its laws. However, if the government and its laws demand a Christian to do that which is against the law of God, then we will not and must not submit.

> Observe the following biblical acts of civil disobedience:

- **Pharaoh ordered the midwives to kill all male babies - Exodus 1:17-22** - *But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."*

- **Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego would not bow to the image (idolatry) made by Nebuchadnezzar** (Daniel Ch. 3 - Remember the fiery furnace).

- **Daniel would not stop praying to His God even though the law commanded it** (Daniel Ch. 6 – Remember the lion's den).

- **Peter and John were warned not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, let's read learn from Acts 4:13-22** - *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.*

> TODAY AMERICA IS LIKE THE ROMAN EMPIRE OF THE PAST, in his book, THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE BY EDWARD GIBBON, we find 5 destructive forces by which a nation will collapse:

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.

4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.

5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

> What is our Christian responsibility regarding the nation and our government leaders? May God bless America! - 2 Chronicles 7:12-20 - Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.' "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples."

> Beware and be warned, observe:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS vs. THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

- A SUMMARY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The TEN COMMANDMENTS represent GOD'S GOVERNMENT OVER MAN! GOD commands us for our own good to give up wrongs and not rights! HIS system always results in LIBERTY and FREEDOM! The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are built on this foundation, which provides for punitive justice. It is not until one damage another's person or property that he can be punished. The Marxist system leads to bondage and GOD'S system leads to LIBERTY!

- Read very carefully:

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.**
- 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.**
- 4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.**
- 5. Honor thy father and mother.**
- 6. Thou shalt not murder.**
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
- 8. Thou shalt not steal.**
- 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.**
- 10. Thou shalt not covet.**

- Thomas Jefferson said, “*The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest.*”

- Abraham Lincoln said, “*America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.*”

- Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813) Scottish judge and historian said, “*A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess of the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: from **bondage to spiritual faith**; from spiritual faith to **great courage**; from courage to **liberty**; from liberty to **abundance**; from abundance to **selfishness**; from selfishness to **complacency**; from complacency to **apathy**; from apathy to **dependency**; from dependency back again to **bondage.**”
*(Beware of the road to tyranny: From a Republic, to a Democracy, to a Socialist State, to a Communist dictatorship!)**

> **A SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO:** *The Communist Manifesto represents a misguided philosophy, which teaches the citizens to give up their RIGHTS for the sake of the “common good,” but it always ends in a police state. This is called preventive justice. Control is the key concept. Read carefully:*

1. Abolition of private property.
2. Heavy progressive income tax.
3. Abolition of all rights of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Central bank.
6. Government control of Communication & Transportation
7. Government ownership of factories and agriculture.
8. Government control of labor.
9. Corporate farms, regional planning.
10. Government control of education.

- Benjamin Franklin in 1787 shared his concerns about government greed and power under the guise of “doing good” he said, “*There are two passions which have a powerful influence in the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice; the love of power and the love of money. Separately, each of these has great force in prompting men to action; but when united in view of the same object, they have in many minds the most violent effects. Place before the eyes of such men a post of honor that shall at the same time be a place of profit, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it.*”

1 Timothy 2:1-7 - *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

(v6-7) **Jesus & taxes** – Mark 12:13-17; Matthew 17:24-27 – **Warning:** Pay your taxes or pay a penalty; or go to jail. (Remember even tax collectors got saved, Levi – also known as Matthew, Luke Ch. 5) & Zacchaeus (Luke Ch. 19); Jesus is charge of the I.R.S – Internal **Repentance Service!**

> **Key #2 – (v8-10) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN SOCIETY!**

> *How to love your neighbor?*

(1) Jesus says – 13:34-35 – *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

(2) Obey the commandments in verse 9 - Don't commit adultery – Don't murder – Don't steal – Don't lie – Don't covet (Covetousness is an intense desire to possess something (or someone) that belongs to another person. Covetousness springs from a greedy self-centeredness and an arrogant disregard of God's law.)

(3) Is your LOVE defined according to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 – Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

**> Key #3 – (v11-14) CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE IN THESE LAST DAYS!
(v11) BY WAKING UP!**

(v12-13) BY LIGHTING UP!

(v14) BY STRAIGHTENING UP!

- Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

- As Christians we should all be growing in the fruit of the Spirit, year by year bearing fruit thirty, sixty and a hundredfold (Matthew 13:8).

LET'S GO4GOD!!!