

The Authority of God

Romans 13:1-7

I. Review:

- A. Individual citizens have a responsibility to obey and honor all those in authority, regardless of whether we agree with them or not.
- B. Human governments have a responsibility to protect their citizens and make sure that justice is done.
- C. As voters, American citizens are in the position of both citizen and ruler, so we must try to elect only those people whom God desires to be in office.

II. Go further – read I Peter 2:9-25

- A. In verses 9-10, to which kingdom does Peter say we belong? What have we received from God and what is the great purpose of our lives?
- B. Why does Peter say we should practice good behavior in verses 12 and 15?
- C. In verses 13-17, Peter describes how we should behave toward earthly authorities. In verses 13-14, what does Peter tell us to do, and what does he say those in authority should do?
- D. In verse 16, Peter says we are free and a slave at the same time. How can both of these things be true?
- E. In verses 18-20, Peter addresses the need for slaves to submit to their masters. How have you or how could you put this instruction into practice with an employer?
- F. What sort of suffering finds favor with God?
- G. In verses 21-25, Peter shows how Jesus set an example in the things he has just told us to do. How did Jesus respond to being treated unfairly?
- H. In Whom did Jesus place His trust while enduring suffering? How can we follow His example?
- I. In verse 24, what does Peter say was the reason for Jesus' suffering?

III. Apply

- A. How can we put our freedom into practice in our daily lives while remaining servants of God at the same time?
- B. What does it mean to you that you have been healed, and that you have a Shepherd and a Guardian?