

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD  
GOVERNMENT – PART 3 – ROMANS 13:6-7

INTRODUCTION:

We have been studying the Christian's responsibility toward government. In the first seven verses of Romans 13 Paul gives us two principles that teach us our responsibility to government. The first principle given in the form of a command is that we are to be in subjection to our governing authorities and this is so important to God that He gave seven reasons we are to submit to them. This morning we will look at the next principle which concerns our responsibility to pay taxes.

III. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY TAXES (Romans 13:6-7)

- a. Taxes are a part of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Many \_\_\_\_\_ that we pay may seem to be overly high, some may even be unjust.
- c. Remember Paul was writing to the Christians in \_\_\_\_\_, and the government that existed at that time was pagan, cruel, and dictatorial.

***IIIa. The Principle Stated (Romans 13:6a)***

- a. Paul begins this section by simply stating the principle, he writes, "*For because of this you also pay \_\_\_\_\_.*" (Romans 13:6a, NASB95)
- b. The Greek term translated "taxes" most often referred to taxes paid by an \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. This was not the first time that Israel had come under a tax to a foreign \_\_\_\_\_. (Nehemiah 5:4)
- d. God had through the Mosaic covenant given the nation of Israel a specific and detailed \_\_\_\_\_ of taxation.
- e. In the New Testament under Rome rule the tax system was different. However, the Romans did \_\_\_\_\_ Israel to collect certain religious taxes. (Matthew 17:24-27)
- f. This morning our Scripture reading was from another event during \_\_\_\_\_' life that dealt with taxes. (Matthew 22:15-21)

***IIIb. The Purpose For Paying Taxes (Romans 13:6b)***

- a. Paul after giving us the principle, that as Christians we have a responsibility, an obligation to pay taxes, then goes on to give us the \_\_\_\_\_ for paying taxes.
- b. Paul writes in the second half of verse 6, "*... for rulers are \_\_\_\_\_ of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.*" (Romans 13:6b, NASB95) (Romans 13:4)
- c. Because the governing authorities are servants of God they should understand and realize that they serve only because God has put them in the \_\_\_\_\_ they are in.

***IIIc. The Particulars of Your Responsibility (Romans 13:7)***

- a. Paul in the final verse of this section of Romans 13 mentions some particulars that have to do both with paying \_\_\_\_\_ and being in \_\_\_\_\_ to governing authorities.
- b. The word translated "\_\_\_\_\_ " is a word that means in part to pay back what is owed, or it implies the payment of an incurred obligation.
- c. The word that Paul uses here for \_\_\_\_\_ is the same one mentioned in verse 6.
- d. Paul in the next two obligations is not speaking directly about paying taxes but rather what the Christian's \_\_\_\_\_ should be to those governing authorities who are receiving our tax payments.

CONCLUSION:

This concludes Paul's teaching on the Christian's responsibility to human government. Paul's teaching on this was without regard to the kind of government under which you live. Paul laid out for us two principles that we are responsible to carry out in regard to government. The first principle is that we are to be in subjection to the governing authorities. Paul gave us this principle as a command from the Lord and then seven reasons that we are to obey this command. We spent two weeks covering the first principle and the reasons to obey it. Paul wants us to understand that as Christians we should seek to live peaceful lives in our society and one of the ways we do this is by obeying the

laws, mandates, and restrictions given to us by our governing authorities, and when I say we are to obey them, this means when we are in public and in our private life as well. This means even when you think that the laws, mandates, and restrictions are senseless and meaningless. We are not called to make sense of it, we are called by God to obey.

The second principle which is the Christian's responsibility or obligation is to pay taxes. This is our duty as Christians as Christ gave us the example of rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. This is how we practically live out all that Paul taught us about salvation and justification, and sanctification and glorification in the first 11 chapters of this book. When we live the Christian life in the practical ways that Paul teaches here it is so that we are an example and a witness to the evil society around us of the power of God to save sinners and then to show by our changed life what a disciplined, obedient, Spirit-controlled Christian looks like as we wait for the return of our Savior and Lord to take us to our true home where we will enjoy our true citizenship in His kingdom for eternity.