



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Displaying the Righteousness of God A Study in Romans

Date	Lesson	Text
07/06	Introduction	
07/13	All Have Sinned	1:16-20; 3:9-20
07/20	God's Judgment	2:1-16
07/27	God's Promises	4:2-25
08/03	Justified By Faith Pt 1	5:1-21
08/10	Justified By Faith Pt 2	5:1-21
08/17	Victory in Christ	6:1-14
08/24	Life in the Spirit	8:1-16
08/31	Salvation in Christ	10:5-17
09/07	Marks of a Christian	12:1-21
09/14	Responsible Citizens	13:1-14
09/21	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
09/28	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

What is Prayer?

A two-way conversation
with you and God.
Both talk and listen.

*Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will
hear.*

Isaiah 65:24

(shared by a Class Member)

BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN ROM 13:1-14

The subject of **the Christian's obligations to civil government** was far from academic in Paul's day. The Lord Jesus Christ had been executed on the pretext of treason (John 19:12) and Paul himself had been accused of insurrection (Acts 16:20, 21). The Jews of Paul's day had many questions about the rights of the Roman government (cf. Matt. 22:16, 17; Mark 12:14, etc.). The Jews prided themselves on their independence (cf. John 8:33). Some of the Jews had incited revolt (cf. Acts 5:34-37) and it was a Jewish revolt which precipitated the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The Roman government viewed Christianity as merely a sect within Judaism (e.g. Acts 18:12-17), and therefore viewed Christians with as much suspicion as the Jews. In Acts 18:2 we find a brief reference to the expulsion of the Jews from Rome. The Roman government was all too aware of a revolutionary sect within Judaism and since both Jesus and His followers were accused of attempting to overthrow Roman rule, any civil disobedience would be viewed with suspicion. To put the matter in its simplest terms, the Christian community had two strikes against them so far as Rome was concerned. They could not afford any unnecessary confrontations with Rome. Up until now Paul had been the recipient of the privileges of Roman citizenship. It was under the protective banner of Rome that Paul preached. It was Roman soldiers that protected Paul from the hands of his Jewish opponents. But a time was soon coming when Christianity would no longer be viewed as a friend of Rome. When severe persecution began, it was vital that any such persecution occur for the right reasons. Paul's words on civil government were important to his readers for another reason. In chapter 12 Paul had instructed those who named the name of Christ as Savior to avoid retaliation and repaying evil for evil. The Christian is to leave room for divine retribution (12:19). Verses 1-7 of chapter 13 are a partial explanation of Paul's instruction, for we are informed that **civil government is one of God's instruments through which divine retribution is administered in this life**. This passage in Romans 13 is of vital importance to the readers of the 20th century as well.

While verses 1-7 focused our attention upon the Christian's obligation to submit to the powers that be, verses 8-10 direct our attention to our obligation to men in general. **While our specific obligation to civic officials is to submit, our obligation to men in general is to love them (Romans 13:8). We must remember that the requirements of the Law are not evil; they are holy and just and good (Romans 7:12). The Law was intended as a standard of righteousness.** The Law as a standard or a goal is just as valid as it was in the Old Testament. It defines sin (Romans 7:7) and correspondingly defines righteousness. The problem with the Law was that what it demanded it did not produce. It was an excellent goal, but did not provide the means. In this way it revealed man's inadequacy to please God by his works. The grace of God to the Christian is that God not only bestows on him salvation and forgiveness of sins, He also provides the motivation and the means to live a godly life—that is to keep the Law. Rather than by the striving of human effort, God produces love in the life of the Christian which motivates him to accomplish what the Law demands. In other words, God makes the heart delight in what the Law demands. The requirements of the Law are met, but in a different way than legalistic Law keeping. It is the Holy Spirit of God Who works within us to give us the love which seeks to bless others at our own expense. **The Law is still valid as a standard by which to measure our expression of the righteousness of God**, but it has never been, nor will it ever be, the means by which the individual may win God's approval. **To be 'no longer under Law, but under grace' does not mean that there are no standards, no commands, no necessity of obedience.** The New Testament is full of imperatives and God is just and righteous in expecting us to meet them, out of gratitude, out of a desire to worship Him in Christian service, and by the power God has provided in **the Holy Spirit. He is at work in us 'both to will and to do what is pleasing to Him'** (Philippians 2:12-13).

(adapted from "Reasoning Through Romans" by Robert L. Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

BY OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITIES (1-7)

God established all authorities (vs 1)

As seen in the Old Testament, God appointed judges and administrators to do His work (Ezra 7:25-26)

We are bound under God to submit to authorities (1 Pet 2:13)

We have a covenant with God to obey authorities (Eccl 8:2)

Paul taught that obedience to authorities is a part of "doing good" (Titus 3:1)

We are to obey with deep sincerity as if serving God (Eph 6:5-8)

By rebelling against authorities, I am rebelling against God (vs 2)

Destruction is promised those who are rebellious to authorities (Prov 24:21-22)

We are not rejecting man when we disobey authorities, but rejecting God (1 Thes 4:8)

It is part of our reverence to God to not rebel against authorities (Col 3:22-24)

Fear of authorities is caused by disobedience to the laws (vs 3)

Disobedience in any form is dangerous (Eccl 10:20)

The law is good and is meant to bring the unrighteous to the understanding of disobedience (1 Tim 1:8-10)

Authorities are God's servants (vs 4)

Authorities are judging for God not man (2 Chr 19:5-7)

Rulers only have power because God gives it to them (John 19:11)

Authorities should be established in love and faithfulness (Isa 16:5)

Two reasons for obedience to authorities (vs 5)

(1) Wrath of the government

The courts can implement punishment if we don't settle matters quickly (Matt 5:25)

Governmental wrath can be dangerous (Prov 16:14)

Calmness that comes from God can curb authorities anger (Eccl 10:4)

(2) Godly conscience

We should strive to keep a clear conscience before God and man (Acts 24:16)

Being obedient to authorities can help us keep a valid witness before all men (1 Pet 3:15-17)

Honoring the authorities is commendable to God (1 Pet 2:17-19)

Pay authorities what is owed them (vs 6-7)

We are bound to pay the government what is due them (Matt 22:17-21)

Jesus taught the payment of taxes (Matt 17:24-27)

BY LOVING OTHERS (8-10)

Always have a debt of love for others (vs 8)

Loving is the greatest commandment and therefore is a duty we owe to all (Matt 22:36-40)

We cannot claim to be God's disciple if we don't love (I Jn 2:9-10)

Voluntary love is of the greatest gifts we can give and will provide a future blessing for us (1 Cor 9:17-23)

We are commanded to do everything in love (1 Cor 16:13-14)

The greatest act of love we can give is to be obedient to God's Word (II Jn 1:5-6)

The commandments are summed up by loving others (vs 9-10)

The sum of the law is love (Gal 5:14)

Love binds all things in unity (Col 3:14)

The golden rule is one of the implementations of love (Matt 7:12)

BY LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY (11-14)

The day of the Lord is near (vs 11-12)

Time is short and the present age is passing away (1 Cor 7:29-31)

We must be focused on the right things because the end is near (1 Pet 4:7-8)

Jesus said that He is coming soon (Rev 22:12)

In preparation for the day of the Lord, we should live a holy and godly life (2 Pet 3:10-12)

Live right by putting on Christ (vs 13-14)

One of the elements of putting on Christ is our baptism into Christ (Gal 3:26-27)

Putting on Christ is to put off our old self and be renewed in the attitude of our mind by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:22-24)

Putting on Christ is having the "Mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:10-16)