



**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 Pt 1	13:1-14
09/21	Responsible Citizens Pt 2	13
09/28	Do Not Judge	14:1-15:6
10/05	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

God's Will for My Life?

It's **KNOWNG** and
DOING God's **PLAN**.

*I am the vine; you are the branches.
If a man remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5 NIV

(shared by a Class Member)

BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN-PART 2
ROM 13:1-14

Every country in the world has a flag, its own banner that identifies not just a political and geographical boundary, but a people. Bound together by history and tradition, and often by ethnic ties, this people takes its place among the many peoples of the world. When many of the flags of the world hang together, as they may during the Olympic Games or other international athletic competition, one can always pick out his own country's flag. Its unique colors or striping or emblem always stands out. We are proud of our flag because we are proud of our country. We feel a similar pride — a surge of patriotism — each time we see a military parade, with soldiers decked out in their dress uniforms and marching proudly to a patriotic tune. When our national anthem begins to play, we are instantly on our feet, standing proudly, perhaps searching for that flag of which we are so proud. As the music comes to an end, a tear may trickle down our cheek. An impartial observer of all of this would conclude that we must possess a great respect for our country. So **why is it, then, that crime persists, with citizens hurting their fellow citizens?** Is not every violation of the law an affront to the country in which we take such pride? Why do average citizens, including Christians, feel that there is no real harm in violating certain laws — like speed limits, for example? Since we Christians should strive to be genuine in all things, **perhaps it is time that we brush up on the basics of citizenship.** Today's text is taken from an epistle written by the apostle Paul to a church living in the most important city of his day — the imperial city of Rome. Paul shared with so many others a fascination with Rome, expressing in this letter his long-standing desire to one day visit and minister in this city (Romans 1:10-13). His dream was fulfilled just a few years later (in a way he likely did not anticipate), when he was taken to Rome as a prisoner (Acts 28). The epistle to the Romans does not reveal a specific occasion that prompted Paul to write. It does not indicate that there was any previous communication between Paul and the Romans. There do not seem to be any controversial issues that Paul has been called on to address. The letter reads more like a doctrinal treatise in which Paul uses twelve chapters to examine the grand theme of salvation by grace. Chapter 13, from which our Scripture text comes, likewise does not indicate that it was occasioned by a previous question or problem. Perhaps Paul decided to develop the subject of a Christian view of government and citizenship, because he assumed that Christians living in the capital of the Roman Empire would have a great interest in this. Whatever their concerns with such matters may have been, **we know that subsequent generations of Christians have struggled with the issue of what is the proper way to relate to a secular government, especially when that government is hostile to our religious convictions.** What Paul tells the church at Rome has abiding relevance for church-state relationships in today's world as well.

In reviewing the lesson, all the different commentaries agreed on the splitting of the lesson into three sections. Section one, verses 1-7, teaches the responsibility to be obedient to authorities. Section two, verses 8-10, teaches responsibility to love others. And section three, verses 11-14, teaches the responsibility to live a righteous life. As I studied the separate sections, I tried to pick out the major points verse by verse and determine what each verse taught as my responsibility. My method of picking the responsibilities was by keywords in each verse. In verse one, the keyword was "established", verse two it was "rebels", verse three it was "fear", verse four "servant", in verse five there were two words "punishment" and "conscience", verses six and seven I used the word "owe" in verse 7. In the second section, verse eight had the word "debt" and in verse nine and ten I used the word "summed" in verse 9. In the third section verses eleven and twelve I used the word "nearer" and finally in verses thirteen and fourteen I felt the word "clothe" pointed me to the key thought of those verses.

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and Personal notes)

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)