

ROMANS 13

1. Now that we are Christians, how is it possible for us to obey the commands of God?

-Only through the power of God the Holy Spirit.

2. How do we love people even if we do not feel like it?

-We should allow Christ in us to love others.

3. In Romans 12:9, what does God command us to hate?

-Evil.

4. Why should we hate evil?

-Because evil is the enemy of God and all people.

5. What does Romans 12:10 say about how we must live in the family of Christ?

-If we believe in Christ, then we must be devoted to our fellow Christians in love.

6. What do God and Paul say regarding our work?

-That we should dedicate our work to serve God with all of our strength and with all of our heart.

7. When are our difficulties easier?

-When they are shared with our family in Christ.

8. Why are we more blessed when we give more than we receive?

-The more we give to others, the more God will give to

us.

9. What does the Word of God command us to do to those who persecute us?

-Bless them and do not curse them.

10. Why is it important to bless others and not curse them when they hurt us?

-Because if we do not, then we will continue to suffer.

-The beauty of blessing others and not cursing them is that God Himself will free us from the hurt.

11. What is the importance of rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep?

-When joys are shared with others, they are even more special.

-When weeping is shared with others, the burden is also shared, and therefore, lessened.

12. Whose responsibility is it to punish people for their sins?

-Only God's.

13. How does Romans 12:21 say that we can overcome evil?

-Only by doing good.

-In this lesson, we continue with the theme:

-“The Righteousness of God Working in Us.”

-In the first part of Romans chapter 13, God and Paul teach us two rules:

- 1) Obey your government
- 2) Pay your taxes

-The first rule is that we are to be subject to the governments over us, whether they are our village government or the government of our country.

Let's read Romans 13:1

1-Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

-Even though Satan is the chief of all unsaved people, to whom does the world belong?

-To God.

-Therefore, it was God's decision that there should be leaders in the world so that everything will be done correctly and fairly.

-Should we obey the people who govern our villages and our country?

-Yes.

-What does Romans 13:1 say about the governing

leaders?

-That all leaders have been established by God.

-Does this mean that God has established government leaders who are bad leaders?

-It means that God has allowed them to be leaders.

-The Word of God says that if anyone is a governmental leader, even if they are very evil, then God has allowed them to be there.

-Are there examples in the Bible of God's people submitting themselves to governmental leaders?

-While Joseph was in Egypt, he submitted himself to his master Potiphar, and when Joseph was put into prison, he submitted himself to the keeper of the prison.

-While Daniel was in Babylon, he submitted himself to the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar.

-In Matthew 23:3, when talking about the Pharisees, Jesus told His disciples and the people that they "must be careful to do everything [the Pharisees] tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach."

-Jesus is teaching us all that we should not be like the

Pharisees, but we do need to obey the authorities who are governing us.

-Does this mean that all governmental leaders do and say what God wants them to?

-No.

-Sometimes leaders are evil and command people to do what is against God's Word.

-If our leaders command us to disobey God's Word, should we obey them?

-No.

-Here are some examples from the Word of God:

-Shiphrah and Puah, the Israelite midwives in Egypt, refused to put to death all of the boys born to the Hebrews which Pharaoh said they must do.

-Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had made.

-Daniel was thrown into the lions' den because he refused to stop praying to God.

-Peter and the other apostles refused when the high priest told them not to teach about Christ.

-In Acts 5:29, Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

-What can we conclude regarding governments and obeying them?

-If governmental leaders do not command us to disobey God, then we should obey them.

-But if governmental leaders command us to disobey God, then we must obey God and not them.

Let's read Romans 13:2

2-Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

-If we read Romans 13:2 carefully, we will understand that to disobey village or country leaders is to disobey God.

-To disobey God is worse than to disobey people.

-Why do we not want to disobey God?

-Adam and Eve disobeyed God only once, and tears and sadness came to all people.

-Adam and Eve disobeyed God only once, and pain and

sickness came to all people.

-Adam and Eve disobeyed God only once, and death came to all people.

Let's read Romans 13:3-5

3-For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

4-For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

5-Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

-God has ordained governments in order to help restrain evil and to promote good.

-God has also given governmental leaders the right to punish those who disobey so that people will be afraid to do wrong.

-Christians should obey leaders not only because God has commanded us to, but also so that we will not suffer the punishment of disobedience.

-Without good behavior, society will self destruct.

Let's read Romans 13:6-7

6-This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

7-Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

-Christians should pay taxes out of obedience to the Lord.

-We should also show respect to all those whom God has allowed to be in a place of leadership.

-Does this mean that we should only respect leaders?

-No.

-We should respect and honor all people.

Let's read Romans 13:8-10

8-Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

9-The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed

up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

10-Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

-In some translations of the Bible, Romans 13:8 is translated “Owe nothing to anyone,” and people have thought that God does not want us to borrow money from others.

-A better translation, however, is that which is translated above, “Let no debt remain outstanding.”

-In Exodus 22:25, one of the laws that God gave to Moses says this:

-“If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, charge no interest.”

-In Matthew 5:42, Jesus said, “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

-This helps us to understand that loaning and borrowing money was permitted by God.

-That which God and Paul are saying is that we should fully pay our debts back in the way and the time that was promised.

-If we do not do this, then we are stealing.

-What is the continuing debt which we owe?

-To love one another.

-In Romans 13:8 & 10, God and Paul say that love is the fulfillment of the law.

-How is love the fulfillment of the Law?

-Because love never wrongs another person, and fully satisfies all that the law requires.

-In Matthew 22:37-40, when the Pharisees asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment in the Law, here is what Jesus said:

-“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Let’s read Romans 13:11-12a

11-And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

12-The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

-Did you notice that God and Paul are encouraging us to

wake up?

-From what are we to wake up?

-From a sleep that some Christians may have in their lives.

-Is the Word of God saying that God does not want us to sleep?

-No.

-God knows that we all need sleep.

-God and Paul are not talking about physical sleep, but rather spiritual sleep.

-Whenever we have difficulty understanding the Word of God, remember to look for the spiritual meaning first before the physical meaning.

-God and Paul are talking about spiritual sleep.

-What is spiritual sleep?

-Not understanding and allowing God to do all that He wants to do with us.

-If we are sleeping, God wants us to wake up, to understand, and to allow Him to do all that He wants to do with us.

-What does Romans 13:12 mean when it speaks of “night” and “day”?

-“Night” means man’s time of unbelief, rebellion, and sin.

-“Day” means Christ’s return to earth which will bring spiritual light to all people.

-As all people have been separated from God because of sin, we live in a world that is dark like the night.

-Satan is the prince of darkness, and is the chief of millions of people who do not believe in Christ.

-In this dark world, people are living in the darkness of sin, and do not know God and His truths.

-Even we Christians are continually fighting against sin which tries to control us.

-Romans 13:11-12 tell us that the night is nearly over; the day is almost here, and that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

-What does it mean that “the night is nearly over; the day is almost here”?

-That Christ’s return to earth is very close.

-What does it mean that “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed”?

-Is the Word of God saying that the salvation for Christians has not yet arrived?

-No.

-It should already be clear for all Christians that Christ’s death on the cross is our salvation.

-It is Christ’s blood on the cross which has already been poured out so that we can be saved.

-Here, in the Book of Romans, God and Paul are talking to Christians who have already believed and been saved.

-In fact, after the Book of Acts, all of the books in the Bible are written specifically for Christians.

-While all of the Bible is written for all people, all of the books after Acts are written directly to Christians.

-Therefore, God and Paul are writing to Christians who have already been saved.

-To ask again, what does it mean that “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed”?

-God and Paul are talking about the time when the Lord Jesus will return to earth to take all Christians to heaven.

-Then, in a sense, our salvation will be complete.

-How long has it been since you heard the Word of God and believed in Jesus as your Savior?

-The Lord’s return and the completion of your salvation are closer now than when you first believed.

-Before we believed, we were also in the dark, not knowing the truth, and like people who are asleep.

-Before we believed, we did not know the danger we were in.

-But now we are in the light because we have been saved from the darkness by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s read Romans 13:12b-13

12-So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

13-Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

-God and Paul are encouraging us to put aside or throw out the deeds of darkness.

-What are the deeds of darkness?

-Sin which can darken our lives.

-All Christians live in a world of darkness, and sin can darken our lives.

-This is why God and Paul are encouraging us to throw out any sin which can darken our lives.

-Instead, God and Paul are encouraging us to “put on the armor of light.”

-What is armor?

-Armor is a helmet that is made of metal to protect the head, a coat of metal to protect the upper body, and pants of metal to protect the legs.

-The metal clothing, called armor, was to protect soldiers when they fought against their enemies.

-Although we are not fighting against people, Christians do have enemies.

-The world, the flesh, and Satan are the enemies that we fight against all of the time.

-Therefore, in order to protect ourselves, we must put on “the armor of light.”

-What is the armor of light?

-It is the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-How then do we put on the armor of light?

-We must study and learn the Word of God.

-If you study and learn the Word of God a lot, then your armor will be very strong.

-If you study and learn the Word of God only a little, then your armor will be very weak.

Let's read Romans 13:14

14-Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the [flesh].

-Is there any difference between putting on the armor of light and clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ?

-No.

-In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

-When we put on the armor of light, we are clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Can the world, the flesh, and Satan fight and win against the Lord Jesus?

-No.