

## 04 God and Government – Resistance

Series God and Government Pt 4

August 30<sup>th</sup> P. M. Service

Reading Romans 13:1-7

Last week we talked about disagreements. These are issues that the bible doesn't specifically address, but that we might have legitimate opinions on. (I think that there are areas on here as well that are debatable. It is one of the reasons that I don't want to cover this subject.) They include voting and the following of different laws that we disagree with. We saw that these disagreements should never intrude into the fellowship of the church. We were to be filled with love, seeking to help our brother, ready to set aside our liberties for His edification. Yet, what do we do if we come to a point in time where some are demanding armed resistance. That is the question that we want to look at tonight. Again, I will try to lay out what the bible clearly teaches and then I will give the arguments for and against the use of force by the citizens. Join us as we look at what it means to obey the government.

- History – is filled with these discussions.
- Bible:
  - What did the bible allow and show?
    - **Act 22:25-26** <sup>25</sup> And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" <sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard *that*, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman."
      - Principle: To appeal to our given government given rights is okay.
      - God given rights are those things that the bible commands or forbids, which man can not change. (Even then the term is debatable. We are called to be slaves. A slave has no rights, only a master.)
        - Right of Life: Thou shalt not murder.
        - Right to Private Property: Thou shalt not steal.
        - Right to Worship: **Hebrews 10:25** Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together...
    - **2 Co 11:32-33** <sup>32</sup> In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.
      - Principle: To help those who preach the gospel is good and allowed.
    - **Phi 1:12-14** <sup>12</sup> But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; <sup>14</sup> and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
      - **Phi 4:14-19** <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. <sup>16</sup> For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
      - **Heb 10:34** <sup>34</sup> for you had compassion on me<sup>1</sup> in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven<sup>2</sup>.
      - Principle: Standing will cost you and may bring trouble. Support both in presence and money is needed.
  - What does the Bible condemn?

- **Luke 22:35-38** <sup>35</sup> And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." <sup>36</sup> Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take *it*, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. <sup>37</sup> "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: `And He was numbered with the transgressors<sup>1</sup>.' For the things concerning Me have an end." <sup>38</sup> So they said, "Lord, look, here *are* two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."
  - The point? : It wasn't going to be like the first time. (Matthew 10:5-14) Prepare when you go out to witness.
- **Mat 26:50-54** <sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. <sup>51</sup> And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish<sup>1</sup> by the sword." <sup>53</sup> "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> "How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"
- **1 Ti 4:7-9** <sup>7</sup> But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. <sup>8</sup> For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. <sup>9</sup> This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.
  - Principle: The goal of our life is clearly given, Godliness, not bodily exercise.
- **What verses talk specifically about Government?**
  - **Pro 24:21** My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change;
  - **Ecc 8:2-5** I say, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God.
  - **Mat 22:21** They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
  - **Romans 13:1-7** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup> For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. <sup>5</sup> Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
  - **Titus 3:1-2** Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.
  - **1 Peter 2:13-17** <sup>13</sup> Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- <sup>16</sup> as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
- **The History of Christians fighting.**
  - Emperor Constantine: Believed God had given Him victory and placed a cross on the Roman shields.
  - The Roman Catholic Churches call for the crusades. This was in response to the growing threat of Islam. They had reached outside of Paris and were near Italy.
  - During the Protestant Reformation, German Prince stood against the Holy Roman Empire. Many wars over the next 200 years would have religious motivations on both sides.

- The first clear revolt against government was by the Anabaptist. They were against all government.
  - This happened during the time of Calvin and Luther. The Church at that time was political. You could not separate the church and the state.
- John Knox
  - Queen Mary of Scott ruled Scotland with the desire to return it to the Roman Catholic Faith.
  - John Knox stood against her for most of her life and at the end of His life, he saw her overthrown by the nobles.
- Samuel Rutherford and Oliver Cromwell 1645-1660 in England would write a book (Lex Rex – The Law is King) that would become the best selling books for the next 120 years.
  - His arguments **“Therefore an unjust king, as unjust, is not that genuine ordinance of God, appointed to remove injustice, but accidental to a king. So we may resist the injustice of the king, and not resist the king. 8. If, then, any cast off the nature of a king, and become habitually a tyrant, in so far he is not from God, nor any ordinance which God doth own.” (p. 117) “A tyrant is he who habitually sinneth against the catholic good of the subjects and the state, and subverteth law.” (p. 119)**
    - He lived just before the Monarchy ended with the revolt of Oliver Cromwell.
    - He wrote in response to another book advocating the Divine Right of Kings, especially of Charles I. Charles continued to tax and imprison without congressional approval. He also imprisoned congress as least twice with no charges.
    - At this point He had a book written, the Divine rights of Kings.
    - When he tried to disband them, they refused and he called up the army. This started the revolution.
    - Rutherford’s arguments were that Christians should first seek peace, then flee if needed, than fight to preserve life if needed. (Covenanters?)
      - To fight you need a continuing violation of the laws of the land and a lesser magistrate that stood for the right laws.
      - It wasn’t for the church to lead battles, but to declare what is right. (To bind and Release)
    - In all of this, they were to never cease from preaching truth, even about Monarchs and the laws of the land. Their strength came from the word.
      - John Knox would preach against kneeling to receive the Lord’s Table, but would do it for the sake of conscience, even while saying it “smacked of Roman-ism”
- The American Revolution used Rutherford’s book, but also suppressed all dissenting voices.
  - The actual war started in 1775 when the King of Great Britain had his army and navy cut off Boston and tried to force them to pay taxes for the Boston Tea Party.
  - George Washington was mobilized by the colonies to free Boston if possible, which he did at Christmas time in 1775.
  - Due to the continuing and escalating violence, it was seen that England had declared war on her own people and self-defense was needed.
    - This is the account from the victors side. LOL

Points to think on:

- Most people rebel due to personal reasons, finance or comfort. There is no excuse for these reasons.
- Most people do not seek God first, but look for themselves. There is no excuse for these reasons.
- Many seek to prepare and strengthen themselves. I see no support for this in scripture, other than a normal carefulness.
- Our outrage should be greater for the morally greater deeds, not for the ones the effect us must.