



# “Subjection to Civil Authority”

Romans 13:1-7 - Part two

March 5, 2023

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. [Rom 12:21 NASB95]  
Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. [Rom 12:17]

## 1. **Be in subjection to governing authorities.** v1

### Governing authorities...

1) **...are delegated authority by God.** Jn 19:10-11; Jhn 10:34-35

2) **...are ordained by God.** Act 17:26

✳ Why were they ordained Genesis 6-8

✳ When were they ordained Genesis 9-10

## 2. **Resist governing authority and you resist God's authority.** v2

1) **You oppose God's ordained divine institution.** Pro 20:22; 1Pe 2:13-15

2) **You receive condemnation.** Heb 10:30; Jer 51:24

## 3. **Do good works and have \_\_\_\_\_ from rulers.** v3

3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; [Rom 13:3]

1) **Rulers are to be feared by \_\_\_\_\_.**

2) **If you don't want to fear authority do \_\_\_\_\_.** 1Sa 26:23; Est 4:13-16

- 23 "The LORD will repay each man [for] his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into [my] hand today, but **I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed.** [1Sa 26:23 NASB95]
- 13 Then Mordecai told [them] to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For **if you remain silent at this time,** relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and **you and your father's house will perish.** And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther told [them] to reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and **if I perish, I perish.**" [Est 4:13-16 NASB95]

3) **Those who do good receive \_\_\_\_\_ from authority.** Dan 6:4-5

4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or [evidence of] corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and **no negligence or corruption was [to be] found in him.** 5 Then these men said, "**We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find [it] against him with regard to the law of his God.**" [Dan 6:4-5 NASB95]

✳ When you must resist civil authorities? Act 5:41; Dan 3:16-18

- But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.** [Act 5:29]
- 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 "If it be [so,] our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 "But [even] if [He does] not, let it be known to you, **O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image** that you have set up." [Dan 3:16-18 NASB95]

✱ Can you resist civil authorities and not resist God? 2Ki 11:1-18

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, **she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring.** [2Ki 11:1]

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **the minister of God because...** v4

4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. [Rom 13:4]

1) **...he is the minister to you for \_\_\_\_\_.** Rom 12:19

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but **leave room for the wrath [of God,]** for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. [Rom 12:19]

2) **...he bears a \_\_\_\_\_ against evil.** Gen 9:6

6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, **By man his blood shall be shed,** For in the image of God He made man. [Gen 9:6 NASB95]

3) **...he acts to \_\_\_\_\_ evil on God's behalf.**

5. **Be in \_\_\_\_\_ to ministers of God ...** v5

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. [Rom 13:5]

1) **...for fear of \_\_\_\_\_ for doing evil.** Deu 21:9

9 "So you shall **remove the guilt** of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in the eyes of the LORD. [Deu 21:9]

2) **...also for \_\_\_\_\_ sake.** 1Ti 1:5

5 But **the goal** of our instruction is love from **a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.** [1Ti 1:5 NASB95]

3) **...pay taxes for their \_\_\_\_\_.** v6

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for [rulers] are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. [Rom 13:6 NASB95]

4) **...\_\_\_\_\_ what is due them.** v7

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax [is due;] custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. [Rom 13:7]

✱ \_\_\_\_\_ - on persons, property, goods, or travel

✱ \_\_\_\_\_ - what is paid for public ends to maintain the state

✱ \_\_\_\_\_ - awe to terror of those in authority

✱ \_\_\_\_\_ - respect for the burden of their service for others

Dr. Thomas Beard was the master in charge of Huntingdon School where Oliver Cromwell attended. Beard was a Cambridge graduate and a clergyman. He was an English Puritan. His most famous work was *The Theatre of God's Judgements*, first published in 1597. "This little book was marked by a conviction that the wicked were actually to be punished in this life, quite apart from the problems of the next. It consisted in fact of a list of historical occurrences, or 'providences' as they were called, a term which was later to have much significance for Oliver himself. These were analyzed according to God's intentions in thereby rewarding or punishing his servants, with heavy emphasis on the punishments. As to the nature of the servants in question there was heavy emphasis on Kings and rulers who Beard believed were especially liable to God's justice, being not only 'more hardened and bold to sin', but also liable to 'boldly exempt themselves from all corrections and punishments due unto them.'" Pg 35 Oliver Cromwell, The Lord Protector Antonia Fraser

The philosophy of Dr. Thomas Beard strongly influenced Cromwell with the idea that God was no aloof figure of justice wrapped in the clouds of heaven, waiting for man's death before meting out the due rewards for good and evil. The God of Thomas Beard kept on the contrary a watchful eye on earthly progress, intervened in this life with battles lost (by the evil) and thrones sacrificed (by unworthy rulers).