

The Gospel in Romans – Part 24
Rom. 13:1-7

- Common _____ in Earthly _____ (vv. 1-3)
 - Initially, it seems that Paul is telling us that Christians are to _____, _____, obey _____ the governing authorities tell us to do.
 - Critics often think Paul was too _____ about the place and function of government.
 - But Paul knew perfectly well that earthly governments are _____ agents of justice.
 - He was describing God's _____ for governing authorities.
 - Government is God's gift of common grace to restrain the _____ and _____ of evil on the social order.
 - _____ leads to the complete inversion of _____ human society. (see Rom. 1)
 - We are to _____ the offices and institutions of government even when we _____ with those who hold them.
 - Being in subjection to the authorities is to "_____ " them, it does not mean that we always _____ everything they mandate.
 - When authorities in the home, church, or government lead us to _____ God, we have a _____ to _____ them. (See Ex. 1, Dan. 3, Dan. 6, Acts 4)
 - We disobey to _____ the Lordship of Christ not simply the _____ of government.
- Punitive _____ and Ultimate _____ (vv. 4-7)
 - _____ justice is the _____ of the state.
 - Given Rom. 13:4 and Gen. 9:5-6, there is prima facie ("on its face") biblical warrant for the use of _____ punishment.
 - Private _____ 12:17, 19) must yield to public _____. (vv. 4-5)
 - The _____ earthly justice of this world reminds us of the _____ divine judgment that will come from God. (Rom. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15)
 - In light of your own sin (Rom. 3:23), do you want perfect _____, or do you really want God's _____?

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- **Common Grace in Earthly Government (vv. 1-3)**
 - Initially, it seems that Paul is telling us that Christians are to always, everywhere, obey everything the governing authorities tell us to do.
 - Critics often think Paul was too optimistic about the place and function of government.
 - But Paul knew perfectly well that earthly governments are imperfect agents of justice.
 - He was describing God's ideal for governing authorities.
 - Government is God's gift of common grace to restrain the influence and effects of evil on the social order.
 - Anarchy leads to the complete inversion of flourishing human society. (see Rom. 1)
 - We are to honor the offices and institutions of government even when we disagree with those who hold them.
 - Being in subjection to the authorities is to "stand under" them, it does not mean that we always obey everything they mandate.
 - When authorities in the home, church, or government lead us to dishonor God, we have a duty to disobey them. (See Ex. 1, Dan. 3, Dan. 6, Acts 4)
 - We disobey to demonstrate the Lordship of Christ not simply the defiance of government.
- **Punitive Justice and Ultimate Judgment (vv. 4-7)**
 - Punitive justice is the responsibility of the state.
 - Given Rom. 13:4 and Gen. 9:5-6, there is prima facie ("on its face") biblical warrant for the use of capital punishment.
 - Private vengeance (Rom. 12:17, 19) must yield to public justice. (vv. 4-5)
 - The imperfect earthly justice of this world reminds us of the impartial divine judgment that will come from God. (Rom. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15)
 - In light of your own sin (Rom. 3:23), do you want perfect justice, or do you really want God's grace?