

“...Render unto Caesar...”
Luke 20:19-25

Intro: It was not, as most think, to His disciples He said this.

As we are now in the time of year when we celebrate the signing of the Dec. of Ind., it is only appropriate that we pay tribute to our country and offer praise to God for His blessings and His guidance upon the founding fathers of this great Nation. A Nation that is the envy of the world. We are fortunate to be citizens of the United States of America.

We have both a Christian and a patriotic duty to help our country to be a better place in which to live, work, play, and worship freely.

In our text the Savior enunciated the principle that, while first place always belongs to God, the state (our Caesar) occupies a place in God's plan for our lives.

There is no one passage of scripture that deals with the whole duty of a Christian to either his national or local government. BUT, Paul's Epistle to the Romans (13:1-7) does give some specific instructions concerning the proper Christian attitude and responsibility to the duties of citizenship.

1. We are to be subject to the state because government is a divine institution. (Rom. 13:1)
2. Resistance against constituted government authority is disobedience to God and will be punished (Rom. 13:2) So will a rebellious government.
3. Government officials (viewed ideally) are God's ministers appointed to encourage what is good and to punish what is evil. (Rom.13:3-4a)
Of course when a government becomes evil this is reversed.
4. It should be that only evil doers have anything to fear from their government authority. (Rom. 13:4b)
5. The laws of the country should be obeyed because it is the right thing to do rather than because of the fear of the consequences of disobedience (Rom. 13:5)
We all know that there have been governments which have used fear of everything to control it's people. There are many such today.
6. The power of taxation is legitimate, and the payment of taxes is a

a Christian duty. (Rom. 23: 6)

Taxation without representation is an evidence of a government that has gone bad or wrong and should be corrected.

“Without representation” = unrighteousness

7. A Christian should fulfill his or her many obligations to the state
(Rom. 13:7)

The state should fulfill its many obligations to its citizens.

Both should be carried out lawfully and with respect.

Conclusion:

In his Epistle to Timothy, Paul encouraged that “supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men; For Kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty (1 Tim. 2:1-2)”

We have a responsibility to God to remember our governmental officials in prayer. Our desire for peace and harmony and our concern for the welfare of others should cause us to pray for our leaders.

On this further July, some will explode fireworks. Many will display the flag. Others will go to picnics or family events. **It could be**, that the greatest service that we could render to our troubled nation would be to spend some time in earnest prayer that it might yet be worthy of God’s continued blessings.