



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 13

God's Righteousness lived by
Kingdom Principles

Paul's Gospel of Righteousness is Revealed in Four realms

1. Rom.1-8 Righteousness by Faith fully presented to the individual sinner
2. Rom. 9-11 Righteousness revealed in God's Mercy toward Israel
3. Rom.12 Righteousness of believers who lay down their lives to serve by grace in the Body of Christ
4. Rom. 13-14 Righteousness lived by taking the cross in humility and love in the Kingdom of God

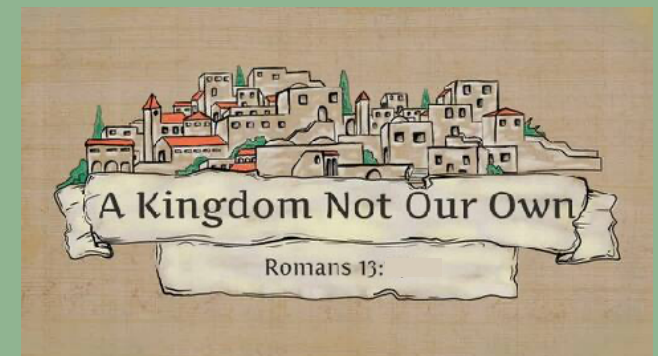
Romans 1-8:
The Gospel of
God's Free
Grace



PRESENT YOUR
BODIES AS A
LIVING SACRIFICE

Romans 12:1

LIVING FOR THE CHRIST



Paul's Gospel of Righteousness is our Kingdom Testimony lived out in the world

Rom 13.1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

What have we discovered His Kingdom while walking with the Lord?

1. He is King with an eternal purpose for His servants
2. Kingdom authority rules and overrules our lives
3. God rules/overrules over Israel and the Nations even now (9-11)
4. Kingdom righteousness is displayed whenever we bear the cross as we live under the ruling authority of Rome

the Roman christians must live in the Kingdom of God and Rome's Empire

God used the Roman empire to further His Kingdom

1. Extensive Road and Sea Networks: The Romans constructed over 50,000 miles of well-maintained paved roads and established over 900 sea routes.
2. The Pax Romana (Roman Peace): This period of relative safety and stability (approx. 27 BCE – 180 CE) with reduced warfare and crime within the empire's borders..
3. Common Languages: With a politically unified empire, Koine Greek served as the business language of the empire with Latin as their official language
4. Lex Romana provided specific legal protections under one rule of law throughout the empire
5. Cultural and Spiritual Climate receptive to a message of hope, equality, and eternal life in contrast to primitive religions and mythology existing from country to country



Part One: **Romans 13.1-7** - Submission to Civil Government

Rom 13.1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Paul's practical righteousness reveals 10 Kingdom Principles

1. By the time Paul wrote Romans the Jewish populations throughout the empire had become restless and critical of corrupt and excessive taxation and Christians who were also thought to be Jews by the Roman government might also be tempted to resist
3. All "higher" authorities in the end are ordained by God to preserve and order life and therefore when one rebels he breaks the flow of life ordained by God which allows a quiet life and opportunities to spread the gospel (1Tim.2.2)
4. Submission to authority was a vital principle of God's righteous rule both in the church and in the believer's righteous relationships in families, commerce and government
2. The cross is necessary to live under our higher Kingdom authority as we submit to be the "**salt of the earth**" while the world continues its rebellion and breakdown of authority ever since Satan's rebellion and mankind's Fall
5. Paul is not making reference to submitting to the Emperor himself or the Empire but shares principles of kingdom living under civil authorities in daily life

Part One: **Romans 13.1-7** - Submission to Civil Government

Rom. 13.1-2 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Rom. 13.3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

1st Kingdom Principle: Submission to authority is a core principle in church life and extends as well to our testimony in the world

1. the nations are always raging and plotting ways to break the bands of anyone in authority and especially of the Lord God
2. God has ordained authority since the fall in order to keep mankind restrained in its lawless nature which would otherwise destroy themselves and God's creation
3. Whether rulers are good or corrupt they are still a restraining and orderly influence that submissive believers should not fear
4. Not only are those in the world who defy authority are judged and punished but rebellious believers face kingdom judgment as well

Part One: **Romans 13.1-7** - Submission to Civil Government

Rom. 13.5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Rom. 13.6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

Rom. 13.7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

2nd Kingdom Principle: Resistance to authority often manifests financially when paying high and corrupt taxes

1. Rebellion creates an evil conscience which brings down God's wrath because we must remain submitted to His higher kingdom authority and this violation of conscience hinders other aspects of our spiritual life
2. Christians are to be conscientious in paying taxes, revenues and even more in showing respect and honor to higher authority
3. Civil government ministers to people through taxes enabling basic government services like building roads, police, hospitals and charity for widows and orphans

Part Two: **Romans 13.8- 10** - Grace has a debt of 'Love Owed' and when obeyed fulfills all the Laws of God

Rom. 13.8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Rom. 13.9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom. 13.10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

3rd Kingdom Principle: Obedience to God's Law now comes out of Love's indebtedness

1. Paul turns his instruction from finance to reveal the higher debt of love we owe as we express Kingdom righteousness in this world
2. Paul lists some of the horizontal commands in the last 6 of the 10 commandments and other commandments throughout the Old Covenant
3. Paul is further instructing the Jewish believers about how the Law is fulfilled through the love of Jesus Christ
4. Loving the "neighbor" is given the broadest interpretation to include "doing no wrong" to all who live around us

Part Three: **Romans 13.11-14** Our life in the Kingdom is maintained by awareness of the Lord's Soon Coming

Rom. 13.11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Rom. 13.12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Rom. 13.13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Rom. 13.14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires..

4th Kingdom Principle: Awareness of KTZ is a vital motivator

1. Paul hopes to stir up their sense of the Lord's coming with full salvation by logically reminding that the hour is nearer than when we first believed
2. Paul often used '**sleep**' as a metaphor of the carnal christian still living in the world's darkness and so exhorts all to "**awake**"
3. Since we live in the daylight of the kingdom it is time to cast off all the deeds of darkness and make no allowance for the deeds of the flesh
4. Those who are awake must rather "**put on the Lord Jesus Christ**" as our '**armor of light**' which proactively prevents gratifying our lusts

Part Four: **Romans 14.1-17** Judgment in the Kingdom must be left to the Judge and not to our judgment

Rom. 14.1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

Rom. 14.2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

Rom. 14.3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

Rom. 14.4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5th Kingdom Principle: Kingdom acceptance and love transcends any former religious traditions or scruples as we leave all Kingdom judgment to God

1. “weak in faith” here does not mean they have little faith but that their understanding of the doctrines of “THE faith” is very basic
2. Righteousness continues to be a practical problem as people with differing religious backgrounds have their own unique lists of what is deemed appropriate, allowed, customary in such areas as food, dress, marriage, drinking, smoking, language
3. Paul first tackles eating and drinking warning believers not to despise, quarrel, become ‘puffed up’ by knowledge and be judgmental because “**God has welcomed them**” into His Kingdom
4. From the KPOV all believers are “servants” of God and accountable only to Him. Paul adds the hope that God will strengthen the ‘weak’ ones in due time

Part Four: **Romans 14.1-17** Judgment in the Kingdom must be left to the Judge and not to our judgment

Rom. 14.5 ¶ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Rom. 14.6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

Rom. 14.7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

Rom. 14.8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Rom. 14.9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

6th Kingdom Principle: as long as someone is living for the Lord the church must accept that their convictions are acts of faith and not judge them

1. whether some observe Sabbath, Jewish feasts or Roman holidays we must all remain united in fellowship by the Spirit believing others do these things out of faith and devotion to the Lord
2. Christians no longer live to themselves but we are one in life together under the care, discipline and judgment of the Lord who prepares each one in life and death
3. Christ died and rose again to be Lord of all in His Body not just for those alive at this moment but for all bound eternally whether dead or alive

Part Four: **Romans 14.1-17** Judgment in the Kingdom must be left to the Judge and not to our judgment

Rom. 14.10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

Rom. 14.11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

Rom. 14.12 ¶ So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Rom. 14.13 ¶ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

7th Kingdom Principle: Focus upon judging our own life right now as one day we must all give an account of ourselves before the judgment seat of Christ

1. This very important doctrine (mentioned also in **2Cor.5.10**) of the judgment ‘bema’ for christians is mentioned as a doctrine which all the christians understood
2. Here is a passage where Paul clearly declares the Divinity of Christ by quoting from **Isa.45.23** where the Lord (JHVH) will force every knee will confess “**to God**” (cf. **Phil.2.10** “**Jesus Christ is Lord**”)
3. In light of the coming Judgment Bema our only present judgment should be our own care to put no stumbling block in the way of a brother

Part Four: **Romans 14.1-17** Judgment in the Kingdom must be left to the Judge and not to our judgment

Rom. 14.14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Rom. 14.15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

Rom. 14.16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

Rom. 14.17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

8th Kingdom Principle: the Kingdom of God is not defined by material things of earth but the spiritual presence of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

1. Paul sees from KPOV that “Nothing is unclean in itself” because created by God as part of life and enjoyment before sin turned even good things into causes of defilement
2. Kingdom valuation of the goodness of God’s creation therefore overrides lesser cultural or religious scruples, laws, and prohibitions regarding material things
3. Those strong in the faith who live with more liberty must do so with humility and brotherly love gladly abstaining on the occasion anything in our lives might cause a weaker brother to stumble in his walk

Part Five: **Romans 14.18-23** Kingdom Servants must take the cross to their personal liberties for the Kingdom

Rom. 14.18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom. 14.19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Rom. 14.20 ¶ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

Rom. 14.21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

9th Kingdom Principle: a good kingdom servant of the Lord is willing to bear the cross for the purpose of keeping the unity of the Body of Christ

1. a kingdom servant has a double motive both to be acceptable to God and approved by men
2. a servant therefore must desire to minister things which make for peace and edifying in the Body of Christ
3. the puffed up pride of a servant's 'knowing' and insisting upon his liberty or his judging others for their weak faith and 'legalism' can destroy the work of God
4. For the sake of unity it is better to sacrifice your liberty in matters like eating and drinking in order not to stumble a brother in a given setting

Part Five: **Romans 14.18-23** Kingdom Servants must take the cross to their personal liberties for the Kingdom

Rom. 14.22 The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

Rom. 14.23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

10th Kingdom Principle: keep faith and a clear conscience before your Master as you walk in the liberty of the gospel.

1. a servant is blessed if whatever he approves in his own life will pass judgment in the kingdom
2. be careful to keep other brothers with weaker faith from violating their conscience when being pushed into any liberties he doubts
3. as believers grow in their knowledge from faith to faith their heart can be easily condemned if their conscience is violated by actions outside their convictions
4. Faith is greatly affected by our conscience (**1John 3.21-22**)

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- next time: Rom 15
- Kingdom Care in Rome and the World