

# The Epistle to the *Romans*

**Civil Responsibilities**  
**Chapter 13**

# Outline of Romans

- **1 - 8**      *Doctrinal*      **Faith**
  - 1-3 Sin: (the most complete diagnosis)
  - 4-5 Salvation
  - 6-8 Sanctification
- **9-11**      *Dispensational*      **Hope**
  - 9 Israel - Past
  - 10 Israel - Present
  - 11 Israel - Future
- **12-16**      *Practical*      **Love**

# Responsibilities & Responses

- Romans 12 Responsibilities from gifts
- Romans 13 Civil Responsibilities
- Romans 14 Christian Maturity
- Romans 15 Unity within the Body
- Romans 16 Personal Greetings

# Responsibilities & Responses

- Romans 12 Responsibilities from gifts
- Romans 13 Civil Responsibilities
- Romans 14 Christian Maturity
- Romans 15 Unity within the Body
- Romans 16 Personal Greetings
- The connection between Romans 12 and Romans 13 is clear. If the Christian is not to seek personal vengeance, it does not take away the government's authority to punish wrongdoers.

# General Background

- Chapter 13 - The relationship between the Christian and his government.
  - Often misquoted and misunderstood

## The big questions!

- “Must we obey a government that is corrupt?”
- “How do we, as Christians, relate to a government that is democratically elected?”
- “Do we have a *dual* citizenship?”

# Fundamental Institutions

Genesis 1-11

## 1. Personal Volition: Free will

- The freedom to choose our own destiny
- This history of this country, from the Magna Carta to Wilberforce to the ‘human rights’ legislation of today acknowledge this
  - *“We hold these truths to be self-evident.”*
  - God didn’t want robots.
  - Volition is a prerequisite to love.

# Fundamental Institutions

Genesis 1-11

**1. Personal Volition:** Free will

**2. Marriage:** Model of Intimacy

– Divine order in the human race      Gen 2:24

– Between one man & one woman

- Man = head of the household as Christ is the head of the Church

– Not cultural but Divine!

- Two rules for happiness:      Eph 5:22ff

# Fundamental Institutions

Genesis 1-11

**3. Family:** Most important segment of society

- Responsibility for authority over the children: *Parents; not the state*
- Teach: respect law and order
- Relationships: otherwise chaos ensues



# Fundamental Institutions

Genesis 1-11

## 4. Human Government:

Rom 13:1-7

– Started with only eight...

Gen 9:5-6

*“by man shall his blood be shed”*

Divinely instigated capital punishment...

- All other authority derives from that...

Cf. Gen 49:10

– No jails in ancient Israel! (not needed!)

- Stealing: restitution five-fold
- Habitual criminals stoned
- Kidnapping: death penalty

# Fundamental Institutions

## Genesis 1-11

- Cities of Refuge -
  - 3 east of the Jordan, 3 west of the Jordan
    - Place of asylum for those accidentally killing someone
    - Those fleeing there were protected by divine decree
    - They were protected from the avenger of blood provided they stay within the city
    - They were to stay until the High Priest died
    - Then they were free to leave

# Cities of Refuge

- Was the crucifixion premeditated or manslaughter?
  - “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” – Luke 23:34
- We are guilty of manslaughter
- Where to we flee to?
  - Where is our refuge?
- How long do we stay?
- Until the High Priest dies...
- Who is our High Priest?

# Capital Punishment

- After the flood, God announced the principles of government: Gen 9:5, 6

And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

**Genesis 9:5-6**

- Note the value God places on human life!

# Capital Punishment

- After the flood, God announced the principles of government: Gen 9:5, 6
- This “everlasting covenant” with Noah is to endure “while the earth remaineth”  
Gen 8:20-9:7
- 1,000 years later, under the Law of Moses, God reaffirmed the governmental duty of punishing murderers with death:

Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.

**Numbers 35:31, 33**

# Reaping The Whirlwind!

- Dr Chuck Missler noted:
- *“The number of known ‘man-killers’ alive in America outnumber the clergymen, the teachers in our schools, judges and magistrates, and even the policemen on duty”.*
- From our education systems to the inner cities, because we have largely removed punishment for wrongdoing, we are seeing it spiral out of control and are dangerously close to anarchy!



# Capital Punishment?

- To claim that it is not “Christian” to execute murderers is to directly deny Paul’s plain word in **Romans 13**, that
  - the magistrate “*beareth not the sword in vain,*”
  - being “*a minister of wrath to him that doeth evil,*” and
  - one of whom evil-doers are commanded to be afraid.

# Capital Punishment?

- So, is it a disservice to home and nation to label it '*murder*' which God has *commanded to be done*?
  - i.e. the execution of the shedders of human blood.

# Capital Punishment?

- It is a libel on Christian Doctrine to claim that the current '*anti-Capital-punishment*' cry is "Christian."
  - We might not like it...
  - It may be uncomfortable to our sensibilities
  - But it is not about our 'feelings'
  - Our guide in all matters of faith, conduct and doctrine is the Word of God!

# Capital Punishment?

- Note that the Penitent thief on the cross cried out, “*We suffer the due reward for our deeds!*” - Luke 23:31
  - And he cried out to Jesus, “*Lord, remember me...*”
  - Our Lord’s answer, “*Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise.*”

# The Bigger Picture

- This demonstrates the fundamental truth:
  - Government in this world;  
salvation in the next.
  - Only the ignorant confuse those two.

# Fundamental Institutions

## Genesis 1-11

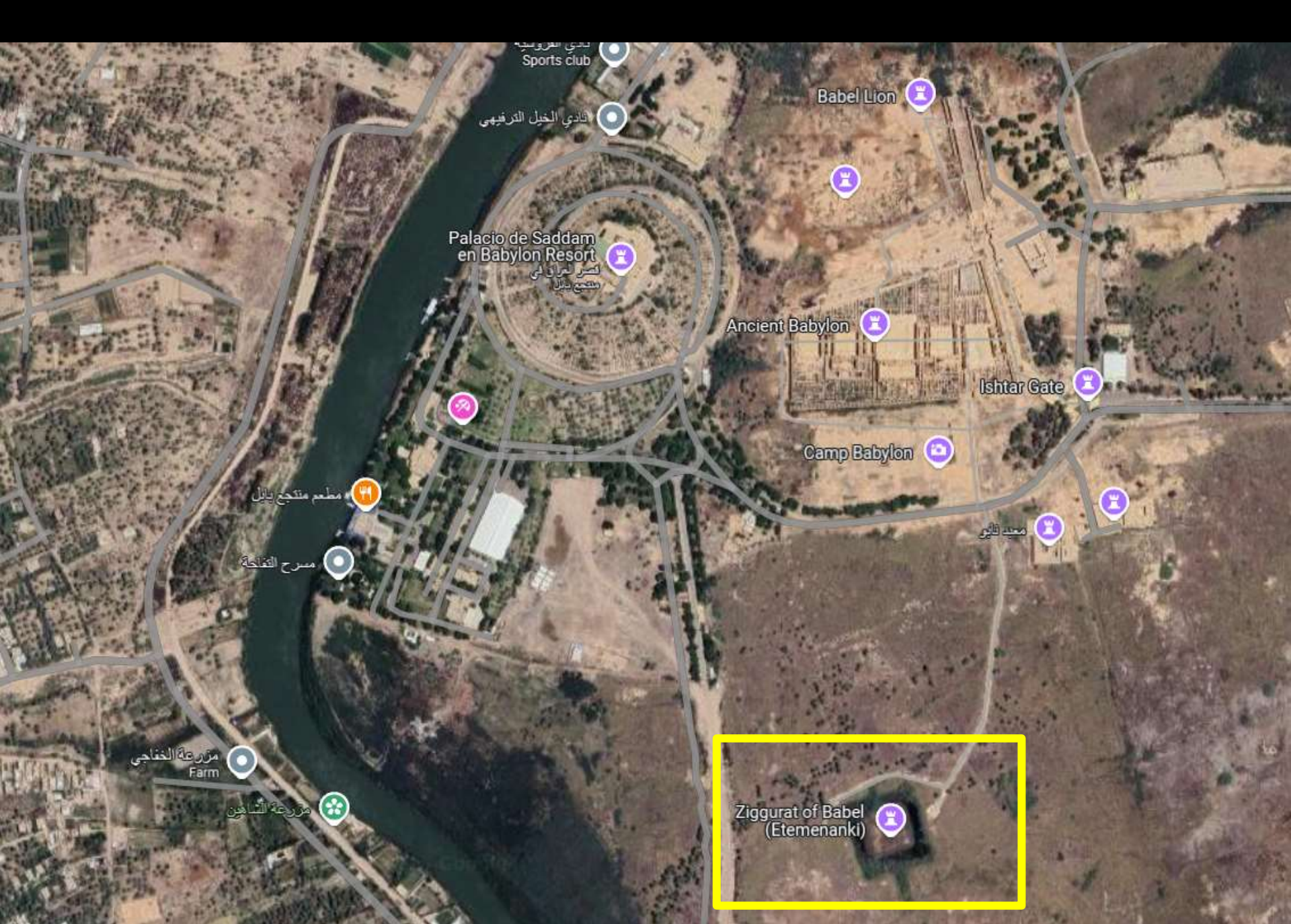
- **First World Leader: Nimrod** Gen 10:8-10
  - Son of Cush (Granson of Ham)
    - Later know as Bar-Cush (Bachus)
  - Cush was the instigator of the Tower of Babel (hence ‘Chaos’ derived from ‘Chush’)
    - The descendants of Cush located around the southern parts of the Nile (“Ethiopia”).

# Fundamental Institutions

## Genesis 1-11

- **First World Leader: Nimrod**      Gen 10:8-10
  - Established his capital at Bab-El  
= Babylon
  - Astrological Temple      Gen 11:1-4 6
  - “Mighty hunter *in defiance of the Lord*”







# Apostasy Begins

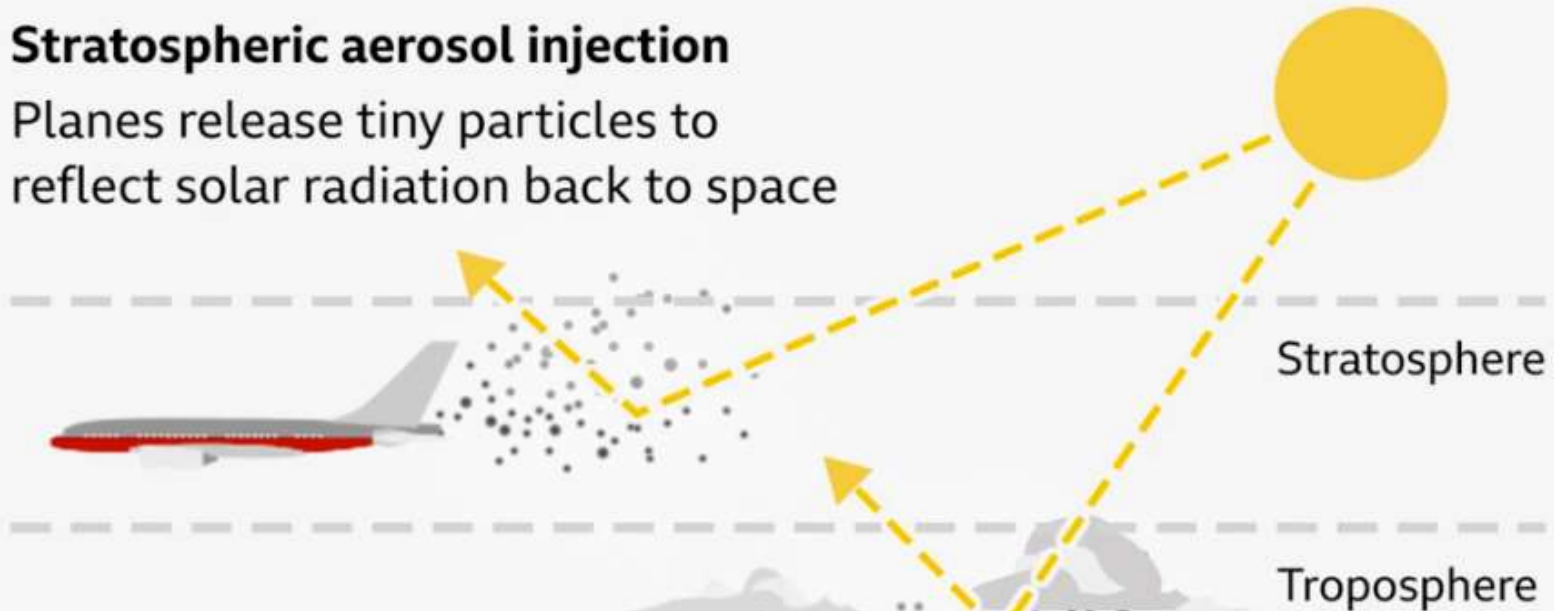
- “Then men began to *profane* [“call themselves by”] the name of the Lord”  
*Gen 4:26 (KJV)*
- “...desisted from praying in the name”  
*Targum of Onkelos*
- “...surnamed their idols in the name”  
*Targum of Jonathan*
- Ascribes the origin of idolatry to the days of Enosh  
*Kimchi, Rashi, Jerome, et al*
- Maimonides, *Commentary on the Mishna, 1168*

# Man Playing God!

## How geo-engineering could cool the atmosphere

### Stratospheric aerosol injection

Planes release tiny particles to reflect solar radiation back to space



### Marine cloud brightening

Boats release aerosols to make low cloud more reflective

Not to scale

B B C

NEWS

# Fundamental Institutions

## Genesis 1-11

- One world government leads to a satanic tyranny

- The degree of evil was unlimited

Gen 11:6

1 John 5:19

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

**1 John 5:19 KJV**

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

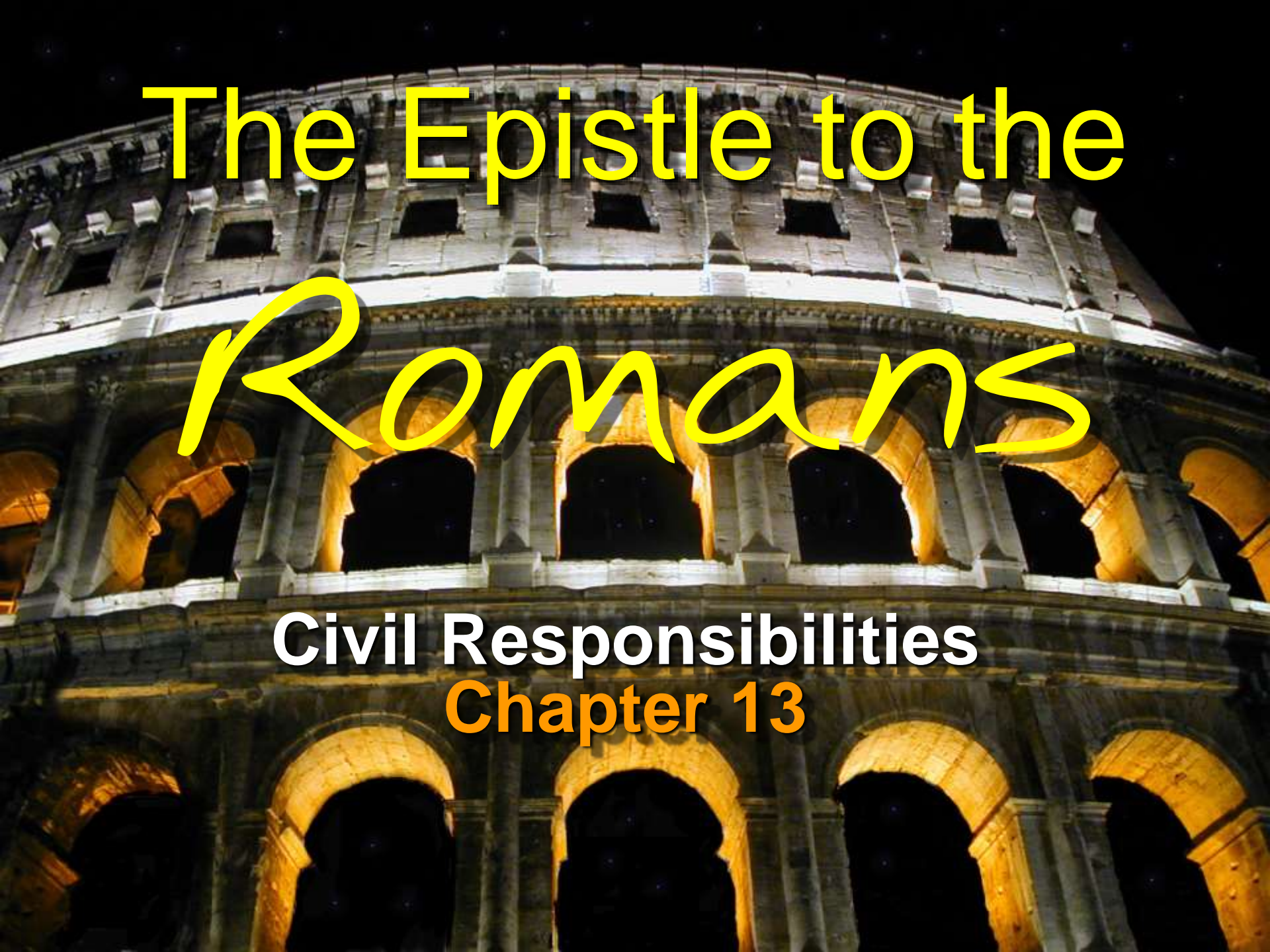
**1 John 5:19 NIV**

# Fundamental Institutions

## Genesis 1-11

- One world government will ultimately lead to a satanic tyranny
- *Satan, through liberal minded political correctness, is attacking the basic foundations of our society*
  - We are seeing a mild reprieve from this...
    - The Government's recognition of a 'Woman'
    - Trump (and other's) public discrediting of 'woke' culture
    - The 'popularity' of Reform UK (a commonsense voice?)
    - Vocal opposition to 'popular culture' from the likes of Piers Morgan/GB News etc. calling out foolishness





# The Epistle to the *Romans*

**Civil Responsibilities**  
**Chapter 13**

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

**Romans 13:1-2**

- Higher powers: “governing authorities”
- Note that God is still in control!
- “damnation” = judgment; condemnation, due punishment

# Believer's Relationship to Government

- Note the Exception: #
  - Acts 4:18-21
- We must be as wise as serpents but as harmless as doves! So, we must also know the law:
  - Acts 23: 1-5; 11; 28:19
- “Don’t poke the bear!”
  - Don’t go looking for trouble, but don’t hide from it either!



# The Exception

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

**Acts 4:13-14**

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

**Acts 4:15-17**

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

**Acts 4:18-20**

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

**Acts 4:21**

- They chose to ignore this edict from their governing council.
- If it's a choice between man's rule and God's, we chose God's way every time.
- Remember Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah & Mishael, Polycarp – “We’re not gonna bow”!

# Believer's Relationship to Government Today

- We have a different situation, one not addressed in the express terms of the Scripture.
  - Our officials are actually *our employees!*
  - The Bible does not seem to deal directly with the responsibilities of a democracy in which officials are elected and laws are drafted by elected officials. We have 'authority' over the officials.
  - *We are committed to the rule of law, not a specific ruler.*
  - Submission in our country is primarily to laws and democratic processes and not to persons.

# Believer's Relationship to Government

- Biblical submission calls for a readiness *to obey law and uphold the legal order*,
  - Not an approval or endorsement of all lawmakers or even all laws absolutely.
- Christ's absolute supremacy over our lives qualifies the absoluteness of human law.
  - John the Baptist's preaching is an example of a proper indictment of present government authority.



Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Matthew 11:11**

- That's what Jesus said of John the Baptist!
- But John is in Prison...
  - For publicly indicting the ruling king!*

For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

**Matthew 14:3-4 NASB**

Opposition to a leader's behavior, public criticism of it, and declaration of moral unfitness for office, is not necessarily inconsistent with a submissive spirit to governing authorities.



For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

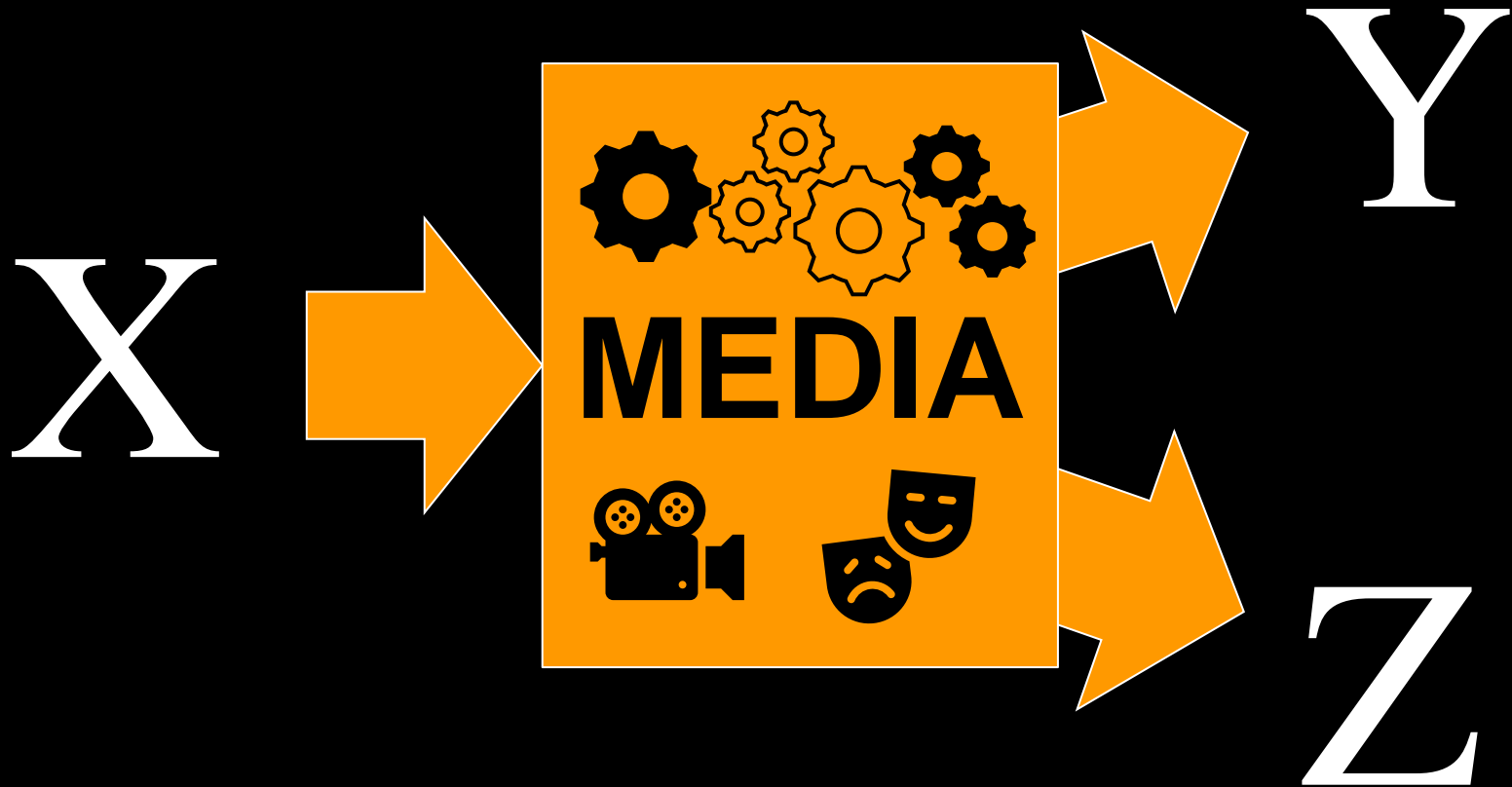
**Romans 13:3**

- Contrast with rebellious Jews against Roman law.
  - Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome.
- **Problem:** what is to be done when the “rulers are evil and are a terror to good works”?

# Our Stewardship

- Our Unique Mandate:
  - *We elect our rulers!*
  - *As in America: “A government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”*
- But: **We face the illiteracy of the electorate:**
  - Biggest problem: Ignorance or Apathy?
    - **“I don’t know and I don’t care!”**
- First Priority: Be informed! Know the truth about our leadership – and pray for them!
  - The critical role of a free press (**not the BBC et al!**)
  - **The power of Media!**

# The Power of Media



It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

**Proverbs 16:12**

- The **abandonment of righteousness** weakens the seat of government and the stability and security of the country.

Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

**Proverbs 20:28 KJV**

Loyalty and truth preserve the king, And he upholds his throne by righteousness.

**Proverbs 20:28 NASB**

- The **abandonment of truth** and loyalty to covenants undermines the leadership of a ruler.

The king by judgment establisheth the land:  
but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

**Proverbs 29:4 KJV**

The king gives stability to the land by  
justice, But a man who takes bribes  
overthrows it.

**Proverbs 29:4 NASB**

The king by judgment establisheth the land:  
but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

**Proverbs 29:4 KJV**

The king gives stability to the land by  
justice, But a man who takes bribes  
overthrows it.

**Proverbs 29:4 NASB**

# Integrity?

- **Bribery** is a root issue undermining truthfulness
  - Acting on principle rather than driven by expediency.
  - Thus, when integrity is forsaken justice is overthrown.



If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

**Proverbs 29:12 KJV**

If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, All his ministers become wicked.

**Proverbs 29:12 NASB**

- The minimising of truthfulness corrupts others so that the entire government becomes corrupt

If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

**Proverbs 29:12 KJV**

If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, All his ministers become wicked.

**Proverbs 29:12 NASB**

Private morality has vast public implications.

*A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left.*

**Ecclesiastes 10:2 (NASB)**

# Our Stewardship

- When it comes to elections, is not about political views;
  - It is about character;
  - It is about morality;
  - It is about keeping promises made;
  - If politicians knock on your door, speak to them!
  - Support the Christian Institute and other groups that lobby Parliament

# Our Stewardship

- *Our* duty is to stand for what is right.
- Our voting should be in line with Scripture!
  - Not a political persuasion for any other reason
- “Abour that which is evil...”

# The Final Vote!

- The poll that can't be ignored has only one vote!
- There is an election coming which has *your* name on the ballot.
  - It will involve a “ballot box” which will receive only *one* relevant vote: God's.
  - The results will not be determined by rhetoric
  - What has *your* voting record been?
- *“There is something far more powerful than even the ballot box: it is the prayer closet”.*

# Pray

1. Pray for the King and Prime Minister's repentance and renewal in faith and honesty and purity of heart and body.
  - Pray for *Parliament and all politicians*, that its moral leadership might be reinstated.
  - That Scripture would once again be cherished

# Pray

## 2. Pray for all of our leaders:

- For discernment and wisdom in their decisions;
- For courage in times of crisis;
- For repentance where their behavior so requires.
- And for the exaltation of God in our land, whose ways and Word have been ignored and despised.



# Pray

3. Inform those in governing positions of your views and values.
  - Email addresses readily available
4. Actively support politicians with a scriptural foundation and personal integrity.
5. Hold all politicians accountable.
  - If we care about our children and grandchildren, that should be our consuming commitment.

For he is the minister of God to thee for good.

But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

**Romans 13:4**

- Pray for our law enforcement officers; they daily put their life on the line to maintain order.
  - Likewise, our armed forces and those who seek to protect our nation

Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

**Luke 3:12-14**

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only  
for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

**Romans 13:5**

- Be a law-abiding citizen, as long as the laws are not in conflict with the law of God!

For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are  
God's ministers, attending continually upon  
this very thing.

**Romans 13:6**

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

**Romans 13:7**

- It is a call for being a law-abiding citizen
  - Also recognise that the laws are the result of our efforts
    - Not imposed upon us by Caesar!
    - Rather by the people we elected to office
  - It's our fault if our laws aren't what they should be.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

**Romans 13:8**

- “Stop owing anything to anyone except...”
- ...the debt of love!

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore  
love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:10**

- Don't let your zeal for a cause have an adverse impact on others!



Now the end of the commandment is charity  
out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience,  
and of faith unfeigned:

From which some having swerved have turned  
aside unto vain jangling;

Desiring to be teachers of the law;  
understanding neither what they say, nor  
whereof they affirm.

But we know that the law is good, if a man use  
it lawfully;

**1 Timothy 1:5-8**

Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

**1 Timothy 1:9-10**

According to the glorious gospel of the blessed  
God, which was committed to my trust.  
And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath  
enabled me, for that he counted me faithful,  
putting me into the ministry;  
Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor,  
and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I  
did it ignorantly in unbelief.

**1 Timothy 1:11-13**

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**1 Timothy 1:14**

- Walking according to the Spirit converts a duty into a delight
- “Walking” involves a moment-by-moment, incremental, trusting...

**Gal 5:13ff. Cf. 5:22-23**

# 3 Principles

- **The Law of Liberty:** everything not expressly forbidden is permitted;
- **The Law of Expediency** (re: the non-believer): all things are lawful, but not all things are expedient; **1 Cor 9:19-23**
  - Voluntary restraint for the advance of the Gospel
- **The Law of Love** (re: Brethren)

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

**Romans 13:11**

# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin

## Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin



# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin  
Justification

## Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin  
Justification

## Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin  
Sanctification

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin  
Justification

## Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin  
Sanctification

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin  
Glorification

# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin

Justification

## Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin

Sanctification

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

Glorification

# The Tenses of “Salvation”

## Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin

Justification

## Present Tense:

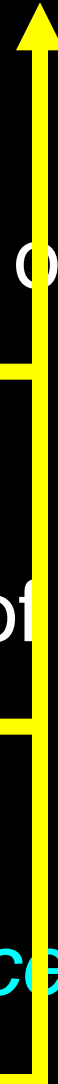
Separation from the *Power* of Sin

Sanctification

## Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

Glorification



The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. **Romans 13:12**

- For details of that see **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting [orgies] and drunkenness, not in chambering [sexual promiscuity] and wantonness [debauchery], not in strife [dissension] and envying [jealousy].

**Romans 13:13**

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

**Romans 13:14**

- How?: by confessing all known sin;
  - And walking moment-by-moment,
    - Taking every thought captive,
    - Taking a step at a time,
    - Trusting in Him...
  - Being transformed by the [continual] renewing of your mind...



“The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

- from bondage to spiritual faith;
- from spiritual faith to great courage;
- from courage to liberty;
- from liberty to abundance;
- from abundance to complacency;
- from complacency to apathy;
- from apathy to dependency;
- from dependence back again into bondage.”

# The Cycle of Nations

**Abundance**

**Liberty**

**Complacency**

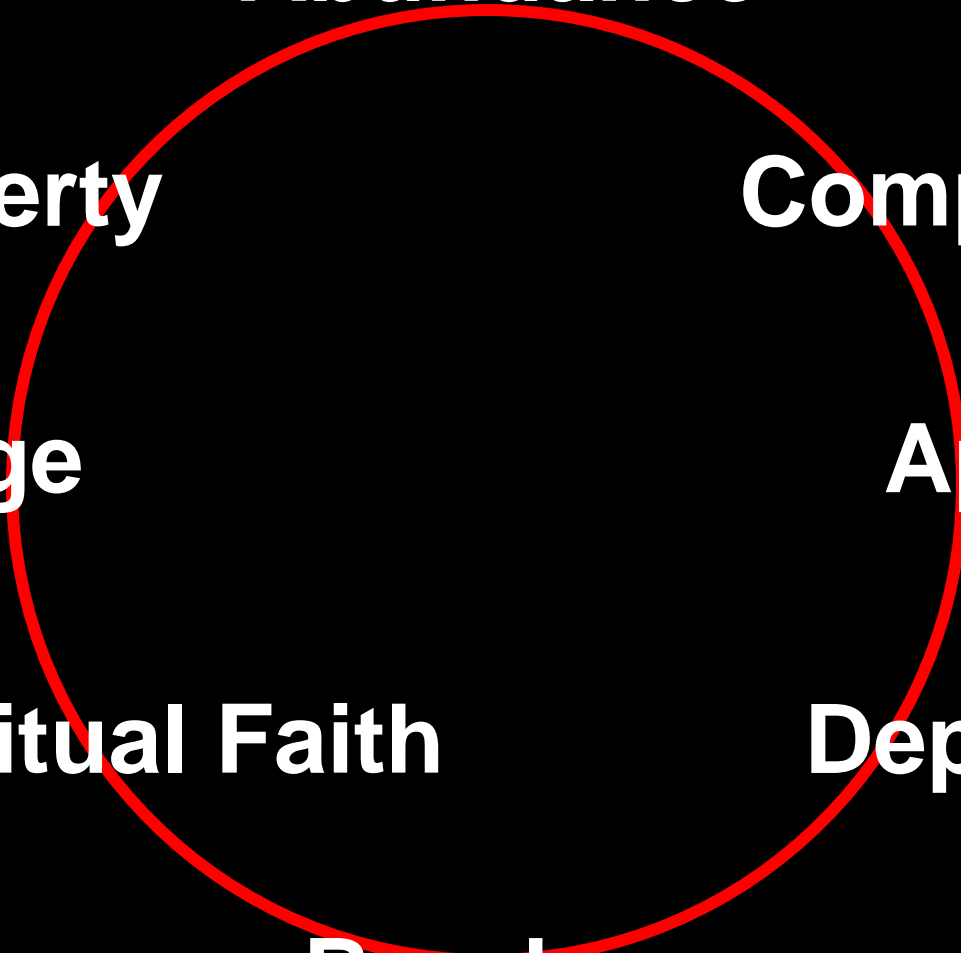
**Courage**

**Apathy**

**Spiritual Faith**

**Dependency**

**Bondage**



# Joe Wright's Prayer

When minister Joe Wright was asked to open a new session of the Kansas State legislature, everyone was expecting the usual politically correct generalities, but what they heard instead was a stirring prayer, passionately calling our country to repentance and righteousness.

# Joe Wright's Prayer

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today and ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, “Woe on those who call evil good,” but that’s exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

# Joe Wright's Prayer

We confess that:

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of  
Your Word and called it pluralism.

We have worshiped other gods and  
called it multiculturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called  
it alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it  
the lottery.

# Joe Wright's Prayer

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

# Joe Wright's Prayer

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

# Joe Wright's Prayer

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of your will.



# Joe Wright's Prayer


I ask it in the name of Your Son, the  
Living Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.”

--Joe Wright

# Next Session

- Read Romans 14
  - Should Christians keep the Sabbath?
  - Why was Paul so paranoid about the possibility of “being a castaway”?
  - Should we be concerned about the “Judgment Seat of Christ”?



# Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*