

I. Introduction.

- A. As Christians we are citizens of an earthly kingdom (the United States of America) and the heavenly kingdom of God (see Eph. 2:19 and Phil. 3:20).**
- B. God expects us to be good citizens of both kingdoms (see Matt. 22:21); as long as we are not commanded to disobey the clear and undeniable teachings of God's Word, we are called by God to obey our government (see Acts 5:29).**

II. Government: A Biblical Perspective.

- A. God established the concept of government (v.1).**
 - 1. God knew that human beings could not have an orderly society without an earthly authority, so he instituted what we call government.**
 - 2. When government officials act in a godly manner they should be commended and followed.**
 - 3. When governmental officials are ungodly they should be rebuked and removed from office.**
- B. People who rebel against godly governmental authority should expect trouble (v.2).**
 - 1. One of the tasks of our government is to make sure that law breakers are properly punished.**
 - 2. Is our judicial system working the way it should?**
- C. When government governs the way it should law abiding citizens have no reason to fear government (v.3).**
- D. God uses people in positions of authority to punish those who break the law (v.4).**
 - 1. No individual has the right to avenge (Rom. 12:19).**
 - 2. But government, acting as God's agent of wrath, has the right to avenge, and in some cases to execute.**
- E. The main reason why we should submit to godly governmental authority is because this is God's will (v.5).**
- F. God expects us to support those in authority over us (v.6,7).**
 - 1. Every Christian is obligated to pay taxes.**
 - 2. Christians are also obligated to speak up when they know that taxes are used for ungodly purposes.**

III. Conclusion.

- A. We are the light of the world (see Matt. 5:14-16).**
- B. If we fail to "shine" for God, the darkness of evil will destroy our land!**