

## **SERMON TEXT**

*"Government and God"*

Romans 13:1–7

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. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> 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.

## **SERMON NOTES**

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# By Grace Alone



The Book of Romans



**Redeemer**  
Presbyterian Church · PCA

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MEDITATION

God can and does work in the hearts and minds of rulers and officials of government to accomplish His sovereign purpose. Their hearts and minds are as much under His control as the impersonal physical laws of nature. Yet their every decision is made freely – most often without any thought or regard to the will of God.

– Jerry Bridges

If there is no final place for civil disobedience, then the government has been made autonomous, and as such, it has been put in the place of the living God. ...And that point is exactly when the early Christians performed their acts of civil disobedience, even when it cost them their lives. ...Acts of State which contradict God’s Law are illegitimate and acts of tyranny. Tyranny is ruling without the sanction of God. To resist tyranny is to honor God. ...The bottom line is that at a certain point there is not only the right, but the duty to disobey the State.

– Francis Schaeffer

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the name of our wonderful God.

*The Lord reigns over all creation!*  
The voice of God creates all things.  
*Nothing exists without the creative power of the Lord.*  
May God give strength to all who gather here today.  
*May the Lord bless us with peace!*  
Based on Psalm 29

PRAYER OF ADORATION

WORSHIP IN SONG

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. <sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:13–21

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, you have warned me not to think more highly of myself than I ought, and you have called me to humble myself before you. But I have placed confidence in my own goodness, and I continue to compare myself to others. In my relationships, I keep score. In my community, I care less for people than I do about what they think of me. In my work, I hide my weakness. And in my walk with you, I have forgotten my desperate need for grace. Forgive me, Lord! And break my pride so that I would humbly and completely depend on you.

GRACE

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28–30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discipleship Cove kids is on break for the holiday weekend. Nursery is available on the second floor of the adjacent building.

Offering plates are available in the front lobby. We invite you to place your tithes and offerings as you exit the service.

SONG OF GRACE

SERMON

*Sermon Series: By Grace Alone*  
*"Government and God"*  
*Romans 13:1–7*  
PASTOR CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

BENEDICTION

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PRAYERS OF MEDITATION

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith.

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