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# CONCERNING GOVERNING AUTHORITIES (Presidents Day)

Learning from our Calendar (4)

## My purpose - Reminder

- ▶ This year, I am preaching through the calendar - an ongoing study of holidays and observances we find on our calendars.
- ▶ This is not about observing these days as the church, but addressing various subjects related to these days from a Biblical perspective (since holidays often cause us to pause and ponder their meaning).

# Presidents Day

- ▶ Tomorrow is Presidents Day
- ▶ A day originally designed to recognize the birthday of George Washington (1<sup>st</sup> president). His birthday was February 22.  
Lincoln's birthday was February 12<sup>th</sup> and last Monday was a day to remember him (but it is not a federal holiday).
- ▶ Most combine these 2 days of recognition and give it a more general application.

# Presidents Day

- ▶ Observed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each year.
- ▶ It became an official holiday in 1879 (in Washington DC), and was nationally observed first in 1885.
- ▶ We typically associate this day with appliance/automobile sales (consumerism). Possibly cherry pie. Other than that, we enjoy the day off, possibly with family gatherings, etc.
- ▶ The day is designed to encourage us to celebrate the occupants of the highest office in the USA.

# Our lesson

- ▶ While we do not observe this day as the church, the Bible has much to say about our responsibility to the government.
- ▶ Our focus will be on our responsibility toward governing authorities.

# Government is ordained by God

- ▶ Clearly taught in scripture
- ▶ **Romans 13:1-4** - We are to be subject to governing authorities.
- ▶ They are appointed (ordained) by God (one of 3 institutions). There is no authority except from God.
- ▶ **Romans 13:3**, rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. This is typically the case. Even corrupt governments enforce some order.

# Government is ordained by God

- ▶ Clearly taught in scripture
- ▶ **Romans 13:4** - If you are doing evil, you ought to fear governing authorities.  
In our country, even with a flawed government, generally evil doers are punished.
- ▶ **Daniel 2:21**, governments come and go. God IS always in control. **Psalm 75:6-7**
- ▶ NOTE: Recall the timing when NT was written. Rome was NOT friendly to Christians. Rome crucified Jesus! Etc.
- ▶ Our government is far better than many places in the world!

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ We are called to submit
- ▶ **Romans 13:1-2, 5** - submit, for conscience sake.
- ▶ **1 Peter 2:13-17** - even to “every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake... Think of your example!
- ▶ This includes obeying laws, even if we do not like or agree with them (exception in a moment)
- ▶ Note again the timing when these letters were written!



# My responsibility to government

- ▶ Pay your taxes
- ▶ **Romans 13:6-7** - commanded
- ▶ **Matthew 22:16-21** - render to Caesar...  
NOTE: Jesus did not say, “unless...”  
NOTE: This government was about to crucify Him  
**Cf. Matthew 17:24-27** - the “temple tax”
- ▶ Even if a government supports sinful causes, consider that what you are paying is for legitimate purposes.
- ▶ NOTE: Exceptions & deductions are legitimate. Take them. Pay as little as legally & ethically permitted.

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ **Be respectful**
- ▶ **Romans 13:7** - fear to whom fear, honor...
- ▶ **1 Peter 2:17** - honor the king (and governors)
- ▶ This can be a challenge when facing corruption, immorality, self-serving & prideful leaders.
- ▶ Note the interactions of Jesus and Paul toward leaders.  
Also Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego.  
They were firm, but respectful.
- ▶ Why? **1 Peter 2:15-16**

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ **The one exception**
- ▶ **Acts 5:29**, when obeying a law directly contradicts what God commands you to do! Daniel kept praying, Apostles kept teaching...
- ▶ This ONLY applies concerning the matter in question. You obey ALL OTHER laws!
- ▶ In our society such laws are still rare (for now)
- ▶ We cannot refuse to obey anything because we deem some things sinful.
- ▶ Legalized sin - we do NOT have to participate!  
**Cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10.**

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ Pray for them
- ▶ **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, pray for all in authority.
- ▶ EVEN ungodly leaders NEED our prayers (**cf. Matthew 5:43-45**)
- ▶ Note what we pray for, “*that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.*”  
Pray for godliness to prevail.

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ “I appeal to Caesar...”
- ▶ **Acts 25:10-12**, Paul exercised his right as a Roman citizen. Also **Acts 22:24-29**
- ▶ We may use whatever legal means at our disposal if we disagree with our laws and to seek to improve our spiritual condition.
- ▶ We are blessed to live a nation where we have a say in our laws. USE IT!
- ▶ Respect God’s boundaries - NEVER participate in that which is illegal!
- ▶ Consider how your conduct will affect the church - **1 Corinthians 10:31**

# My responsibility to government

- ▶ Do NOT put patriotism above God!
- ▶ The church is NOT a political organization!  
**Cf. 1 Timothy 3:15**
- ▶ Recall **Galatians 3:27-29**, will your political views affect unity? Will it cause some to feel unwelcome or belittled?  
E.g., the Covid-19 pandemic caused divisions.
- ▶ Strong political views are ok. But do NOT let that affect your relationship with your brother in Christ. See **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
- ▶ **Titus 2:10** - what are you adorning?

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Leaders, both secular and  
spiritual are worthy of our  
honor.

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Even if it is only the office you  
are respecting

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**Let us thank God for our freedoms and leaders, both past and present!**

**Learning from our Calendar (4)**



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Let us pray!

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Learning from our Calendar (4)