



The Christian *and* Civil Government

Romans 13

By Pastor John Weaver

The

WORLD

OF

TO-DAY

AND

TO-MORROW

AND

CIVIL

GOVERNMENT

AND

WEAVER

The Christian and Civil Government

By Pastor John Weaver

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all those who have given their lives, liberty and sacred honor in obedience to the principles of Holy Scripture. We lovingly and gratefully remember the men and women of the American Revolution and the price they paid to secure our lives and liberty from the clutches of tyranny and despotism. Likewise, we recognize and acknowledge true patriots since that time who have suffered and given their lives, freedom and possessions in order to maintain our liberty and freedom.

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FOREWORD

By Robert McCurry, Pastor
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The thirteenth chapter of Romans—at least the first few words of verse one that say, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers" is a favorite section of Scripture appealed to by those who allege that Christians are obligated by God to render unquestioned obedience and submission to every law, ordinance, rule, regulation, edict, and decree promulgated by civil government.

But is this *really* what is being set forth in this chapter? Could God's Word contradict itself? If we are commanded *here* to blindly submit to all of the civil magistrate's laws, decrees, and temporal powers and surrender to him as our earthly sovereign the ultimate control of our actions, then were the exploits of the great heroes of faith throughout Scripture violations of God's

Word and orderly way? What of the Hebrew midwives, Rahab, Daniel, the three Hebrew children, the Apostles, and the early Christians who refused to obey civil authority? And what of the Pilgrims and the Puritans and other Christians who refused to bow to and obey King George? Are these, and others of their faith, spirit, and conviction to be considered disobedient rebels and used as examples of those with whom the Lord is displeased?

It is evident that the Scriptures mean far more concerning obedience to civil government than blind, mindless, spineless, unqualified obedience and submission that is being so carelessly promulgated today. The major emphasis of this book, however, is not disobedience to civil government rather, obedience to God, His Word, and His orderly way.

This crisis hour in America's history demands more than an academic reaction to or superficial concern with this subject of our responsibilities to obey God and civil authorities. Ignoring the issue will not diminish its impact on our lives. God's people must know and they can know how to live in obedience to His will, lordship, and orderly way in this real world, in all things according to the Scriptures.

One of the most severe judgments that God can pronounce on a people and a nation is His silence. And one of the certain indications that God has not passed by or abandoned a people and a nation is that the voice of

His true preachers has not been silenced or withdrawn.

God has neither passed America by nor abandoned her! Pastor John Weaver's ministry and this book are evidence of this blessed fact.

Pastor Weaver sounds the "certain sound of the trumpet" in the pages of this book by dealing with the heart of Romans 13 and by clearly showing just what the Christian's responsibility is regarding civil government. He provides a scriptural definition and delimits the responsibilities, authority, and powers of the civil magistrate. He explains that this scripturally limited responsibility, authority, and power of civil government is derived from God and is both subordinate and subject to Him. He further warns that unqualified obedience and submission to civil government is idolatrous statism and a violation of God's Word and orderly way.

The Scriptures are clear. All men, regardless of their position or function, are commanded to obey and serve God. The Lord's redeemed people, whom He makes willing in the day of His power, indeed *do* obey and serve Him. He is their Lord, their Saviour, and their life. They know His voice and another they will not follow. Their allegiance is to Him. *All* of life is subject to His authority and lordship. His will is their supreme desire. They *must* obey God rather than men. Pastor Weaver shows that our obedience and submission to civil government must *always* be in keeping with the supreme sovereignty, authority, and will of God as

revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

The Christian and Civil Government is God-honoring, Christ-exalting, and scripturally sound. It is refreshing, stimulating, informative, challenging, encouraging, and instructional. It is must reading for those who desire the strong meat of God's Word and are thirsty, hungry seekers of truth.

A word of caution. You will never be the same after reading this book. It leaves no room for neutrality. You will be compelled to embrace or reject its message. Reading this book will also make you more responsible and accountable to God. Remember, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12:48).

INTRODUCTION

For the Christian, the most important document is the Word of God. The Bible is to be our "law-word," our full and final authority. Everything must be viewed, measured and understood in light of God's finished revelation, the Bible. It is amazing how often Christians profess this truth and how little they practice it. Our philosophy of economics, family, education, government and every other subject must be in conformity to the Word of God.

The emphasis of this study will be to use a double-edged sword, that is, one that will cut two distinct ways. The first edge of the sword is the Word of God and the second edge is the historical perspective.

Today we are living in a land of ignorance - ignorance of the Word of God and ignorance of our Christian heritage. Ignorance is conducive only to slavery and destruction. Our Lord says in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make