

Let Us Render Our Dues to the Government  
(Romans 13:7)

Introduction:

1. In this verse we are given an important admonition -- we are to render "to all their dues."
2. In our lesson we are concerned with our dues to the government.
3. After observing Independence Day last Thursday, this is a good time to be reminded of our responsibility to "render our dues to the government."

Discussion:

I. ONE DUE IS SUBJECTION

A. Subjection to the government is taught in Romans 13:1-7.

1. (vs.1a) All Christians are to be subject to "the higher powers" [civil authorities].
  - a. A similar admonition is given in Titus 3:1.
  - b. According to these verses, Christians are to obey the laws of the land.
  - c. However, if a civil law violates God's law, we must obey God (Acts 5:29).
2. (vs.1b-5) Three reasons why Christians must obey the law are given.
  - a. First, civil laws must be obeyed because God has ordained government's power to rule (vs.1b-2).
    - 1) Jesus touched on this principle before Pilate (John 19:10-11).
    - 2) Those who resist the power of government are guilty of resisting something God has ordained, and He will hold such people accountable.
    - 3) This does not mean that God approves of all governments; however, He has instituted government as a means of ruling and protecting citizens and punishing evildoers.
  - b. Second, civil laws must be obeyed so fear can be avoided (vs.3-4).
    - 1) One function of the state is to protect its citizens -- law-abiding citizens have no reason to be afraid.
    - 2) Another function of the state is to punish evildoers -- they should be afraid [a serious warning is given in this regard in Ecclesiastes 8:11].
    - 3) God has authorized the state to take the lives of those guilty of capital crimes (vs.4; Genesis 9:5-6).
  - c. Third, civil laws must be obeyed for the sake of conscience (vs.5).
  - d. In addition to obeying civil laws, . . .
3. (vs.6-7) Taxes are to be paid to support the government, and respect is to be shown to those in positions of authority.

B. Subjection to the government is also taught in 1 Peter 2:13-17.

1. These instructions are similar to those given in Romans 13.
  - a. Civil laws are to be obeyed.
  - b. Respect is to be shown to rulers.
2. The state is responsible for protecting law-abiding citizens and punishing lawbreakers.

II. ANOTHER DUE IS PRAYER (1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4)

- A. Prayer is to be offered on behalf of civil leaders.
- B. Christians are to pray for leaders so we can live in conditions favorable to spreading the Gospel.
- C. This pleases God -- He wants everyone to be saved.

Conclusion:

1. Our country needs to take heed to the matters we have studied.
2. Let us always remember the principles revealed in:
  - a. Psalm 9:17
  - b. Psalm 33:12.