

WHEN GOD PUTS THE WRONG PEOPLE IN CHARGE

THE PASSAGE

Romans 13:1-8

TWO KEY DEFINITIONS

(1) Everyone = **EVERYONE**

(2) Be Subject = **OBEY**

Acts 4:18-20/ Daniel 3:16-18/ Daniel 6:5-11

TAKING IT HOME

(1) The **GOAL** is to advance the **GOSPEL**.

1 Peter 2:11-19 1 Timothy 2:1-4

(2) God is in **CONTROL** of who is in **CONTROL**.

Romans 13:1-2 & Daniel 2:20-21 Revelation 18:1-2 Genesis 15:13-16 & 1 Peter 3:9-10

(3) We're called to honor the **POSITION**, not the **PERSON**.

Act 23:1-11 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Food for Thought for the week of July 2, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we heard how Daniel was able to thrive despite the pressures of a godless culture and a corrupt leader. What insights can you find in the following verses that could help you thrive despite the pressures we all face in our world and culture today?

Psalm 119:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

1 Peter 1:13-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

Be Holy

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Matthew 5:14-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

2. It's no surprise to most of us that there is a struggle with the thought of biblical submission to authority, even when we know God is in control. A challenging relationship with an employer, teacher, parent or commanding officer can lead to a lot of frustration, especially when we are called to submit to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it. How can the following verses help us gain perspective on why biblical submission to authority is not only mandatory but also essential for us as followers of Jesus?

Hebrews 10:32-36 *New International Version (NIV)*

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

James 1:2-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

Peace and Hope

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Can you think of any significant character building lessons you've learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure?

3. When it comes to figuring out how submission works in real life situations, it's important to remember that Jesus isn't asking us to do anything he didn't do for us first. As you read Matthew 20:20-28, how does Jesus' teaching and example impact your thoughts on having to submit to authority?

Matthew 20:20-28 *New International Version (NIV)*

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

If your employer, teacher, parent, etc. were to read this passage, how would they say you're doing at imitating this passage?