

THE CHRISTIAN AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Text: Romans 13:1

INTRO: In this lesson we will view the responsibility of the Christian to civil government, and the duties the civil authorities have toward Christians. JFK. We want to ask both.

I. WHAT I OWE MY COUNTRY.

- A. To obey its laws. READ ROMANS 13:1-2, 5
READ I PETER 2:13-17.
- B. Pay my taxes. Matt. 22:21; ROMANS 13:6-7.
- C. Pray for rulers. READ I TIMOTHY 2:1-4.
- D. Render services. Matt. 5:41 soldier/civilian
- E. Be a Christian. READ ROMANS 1:14-17.

II. WHAT MY COUNTRY OWES ME.

- I PETER 2:13-14; ROMANS 13:1-5.
- A. My country owes me protection when I do right.
ACTS 16:36-39; 22:24-26; 23:17ff.; 25:11
- B. My country owes me punishment when I do wrong.
READ ACTS 25:10-12.
- C. Government may render services, such as relief in times of disaster (Joseph in Egypt), making provision for the indigent; other things that fall into the category of *self preservation*, but the *primary* responsibility of civil government is to protect those who live within the law, and to punish those who violate the law. And the government that isn't doing a reasonably good job of these things is not doing what God ordained civil government to do.

La Porte, TX, July 4, 1982

Exton, PA, July 2, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 3, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 4, 1999