

WHAT MY COUNTRY OWES ME

Text: Romans 13:1-7

INTRO: President Kennedy's most famous quotation: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." But we want to ask both questions. There are certain things we owe to the country in which we live, and there are certain things that our country owes us.

I. MY COUNTRY OWES ME PUNISHMENT WHEN I DO WRONG, vs. 3-4.

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Peter 2:13-15).

Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. (Eccl. 8:11).

II. MY COUNTRY OWES ME PROTECTION WHEN I DO RIGHT, vs. 3-4.

And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, & dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. (Acts 21:30-31).

And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen to go to Caesarea at the 3rd hour of the night; and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor." (Acts 23:23-24).

NOTE: In addition to these two primary duties, there is Bible

precedent for governments to be involved in emergency assistance, etc. Joseph, gleanings, etc.

III. MY COUNTRY OWES ME THE PRIVILEGE OF WALKING WITHOUT FEAR AS LONG AS I WALK WITHIN THE LAW.

Likewise the soldiers asked him [John the Baptist], saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." (Luke 3:14).

IV. WHAT I OWE MY COUNTRY.

- A. To obey its laws, 1 Peter 2:14. Exception: Acts 5:29
- B. To pay my taxes, Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 22:21
- C. To render services, Matt. 5:41,
e.g.. jury duty, military draft, etc.
- D. To pray for those who are in authority, 1 Tim. 2:1-4.
- E. To be productive & pay my own way, 2 Thess. 3:10-12

Jonestown, TX, November 3, 1968

Springhill, LA, May 26, 1974

La Porte, TX, July 4, 1976

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 9, 2001