

**February 17, 2021**

**Resist Not, Part II**

Last week we focused on Romans 13:2 where Paul teaches that we are not to resist the powers that be or the institutions they represent. This week we want to focus on verse 3 and 4 as we consider why we are not to resist. Let's begin once again by reading **Romans 13:1-5**. In verse 4, what phrase is used to describe the authority? The word minister does not necessarily mean a preacher, although a preacher certainly would fall under the definition. The word minister means to run an errand, an attendant. In context, the ministers are the attendants of God, sent by Him on an errand. They have a God ordained position to fill and task to complete.

Paul's reasoning for not resisting the authority is two-fold, the first is positive, the second is negative. Read the passage again and underline each occurrence of the word "good" and "evil." The word good speaks of benefit. The word evil means worthless, depraved, or injurious. Does the person who does good need to fear the authority? Why or why not? If you are driving down the road, obeying all the traffic laws, is there any reason to fear being pulled over? Not really. But when you break the law, by speeding, running a red light or stop sign, driving without a license or insurance, driving a vehicle that is not registered or inspected, etc. you run the risk of being pulled over, questioned, and even fined for not obeying the rules. Note that it does not matter if you agree with the rules. You are still subject to them and if a policeman attempts to pull you over, you had better obey!

How would you feel if you suffered injuriously at the hands of another? What if you were robbed, assaulted, threatened, or injured either intentionally or accidentally? Would you expect the offender to be punished? According to **Romans 12:19**, how are we to respond when we are wronged? Read also, **Psalms 94:1-2** and **Hebrews 12:30-31**. Rather than taking vengeance upon the person who wronged us, we are to commit them into the hands of God and the authorities that He has ordained. Keep in mind that no one ever gets away with evil in the eyes of God. God sees and knows everything. It is a fearful thing to have to give account to God, not only for doing evil, but also for taking it upon ourselves to avenge the evil that has been done. We must all give account of ourselves to God for our actions and attitudes, **Romans 14:10-12** and **I Peter 4:4-5**.

What if the authority fails to do his job or is the one who is corrupt? Am I then free to take matters into my own hand? Read **Psalms 75:6-7**. Just as God is able to put a person into a position of authority, God is also able to remove them. Consider David's attitude toward King Saul. Saul, the authority, was trying to kill David, not because David had done evil, but because Saul was jealous of him. When Saul disobeyed, God rejected him as king and had Samuel anoint David to be king in Saul's stead. Read **I Samuel 18:5-15, 29-30**. Was Saul's anger toward David justified? On two occasions, David had opportunity to kill Saul, but refused. Notice his attitude in **I Samuel 26:8-11**. While most of our authorities are not anointed of God, they are all ordained of God. Like David, we need to resist the temptation to take things into our own hands, committing them instead to the hand and judgment of Almighty God. Let us reflect again upon our attitude towards the authority in our life.