**Exploring Romans**

**Lesson 17**

**How Much Do I Owe?**

Read Romans 13

 Memory Work: Romans 13:8.

Challenge 1. What experience did Paul have with the Roman government?

 2. From verses 1-3, do you think Paul is only giving an ideal situation with regard to government rulers, whether a democracy or a dictatorship? See Titus 3:1-7; I Peter 2:13-17 for help.

 3.a. What does the word “submit” mean...why is this word so unpopular?

 b. Should Christians submit to evil governing authorities? Give verses.

 For help, see Titus 3:1-7; I Peter 2:13; Romans 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-3.

 c. Who are you resisting if you resist government authority? Verse 2.

 4. In verse 7, Paul said to render taxes to whom taxes are due. Are there any circumstances in which

 Christians should not pay taxes?

 5. Peter and John didn’t obey the government in Acts 4:1-22. In what way was this O.K?

 6. Why do you think God established structures of authority within the home church and nation?

Think about 7.a. How do evil rulers serve God’s plan and do us good?

 Pharaoh/Moses

 Nero/Paul, Christians

 Pontius Pilate/Jesus

 Hitler/World War II Jews

 b. How did the persecution and destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) help further God’s plan?

 8.a. What does it mean “to owe no one except to love one another?”

 b. Does this include debts and payments? Explain.

c. From Romans 13:8-10, how does one love his neighbor?

 d. How does love fulfill the Law?

 9.a. Do you think Romans 13:11 describes our society today. . .”asleep”...are you?

 b. What is meant by “the night is far spent. . .the day is at hand?” Explain. See Phil. 4:5; James 5:8;

 I Peter 4:7

 c. How does one “cast off the works of darkness?”

 d. How do you put on the “armor of light?” Ephesians 5:11, and following.

 e. Is this the same as putting on the armor of God? See Ephesians 6:10-18.

 10a. How do you walk properly? Romans 13:13.

 See Ephesians 4:1.

 5:2

 5:8

 5:15.

 b. Contrast this “proper walk” with the following: (Romans 13:13, 14)

 revelry lust

 drunkenness strife

 lewdness envy

 11a. How do put on the Lord Jesus Christ? Romans 13:14.

 b. How do you make no provision for the flesh? Romans 6:12; Galatians 5:16. Give examples.

Challenge 12a. Joseph and Daniel were both promoted to be second in command under pagan rulers. How do you

 think this came about?

 b. Would God be asking believers today to have the same attitude and to be the same example as that of

 Joseph and Daniel?

 c. How is your example and witness. . .does it need strengthening?