

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1)	09 Sept. 2026	Romans 01	True Power
2)	13 Sept.	Romans 02	Coming Judgment
3)	20 Sept.	Romans 03-04	Saving Faith
4)	27 Sept.	Romans 05	Restored Relationship
5)	04 Oct.	Romans 06	Freedom
6)	11 Oct.	Romans 07	Struggle
7)	18 Oct.	Romans 08	Indwelt
8)	25 Oct.	Romans 09-10	Believe
9)	01 Nov.	Romans 11	Kindness
10)	08 Nov.	Romans 12	Sacrifice
11)	15 Nov.	Romans 13	Represent
12)	22 Nov.	Romans 14	Unity
13)	29 Nov.	Romans 15-16	Purpose

**INTRODUCTION**

- If tyrannical nations, in fact all nations, would read this chapter they would see the need to promote Christianity within their borders since Christians are commanded to obey the good laws of the land and to seek the welfare of their country.
- Paul was preaching to believers who lived in a barbaric nation under a despotic ruler, where it was OK to leave unwanted infants alone on a hilltop to be eaten by dogs; where morals were very lax; and Nero would soon light up the night sky with human torches.

Passage	Comments
Romans 13:1-2	<p><b>God Establishes Governments for His Divine Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether we live in the freest nation on earth or the most repressive, God's command to us is SUBMIT</li> <li>• The only exception is where a nation's laws violate God's laws ..... <b>Acts 4:19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Examples: Nazi Germany's command to exterminate minorities and the weak (e.g., Jews &amp; handicapped)</li> <li>♦ Worldwide laws to exterminate the unwanted (e.g., abortions and euthanasia)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:3-4	<p><b>Governments were Established to Protect the Weak</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nation can be a democracy, a theocracy, a republic, a dictatorship, a monarchy, socialistic, despotism, or anything short of anarchy – God can work with it.</li> <li>• Governments and individuals are to be just, kind, and righteous like God – not tyrannical, greedy, immoral                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne; Loving-kindness and truth go before Him" ..... <b>Ps 89:14</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• God reserves judgment for those nations &amp; individuals who oppress the weak in society ..... <b>Zech 7:9-12</b></li> <li>• ...and God allows nations to punish evil doers in their society ("...they do not bear the sword in vain")</li> <li>• Obeying good laws of a nation, even a repressive one, was not an option ..... also see <b>1Peter 2:13-14</b></li> </ul>
13:5	<p><b>Obey for Conscience Sake</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 groups of people: Law Breakers and Law Keepers</li> <li>• Keeping the Law is hard work – it takes discipline and motivation. Some 'carrot &amp; stick' motivators are:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Promise of reward (lower insurance for good drivers)</li> <li>♦ Fear of punishment (getting a speeding ticket)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• But God wants us to be law-keepers based on a higher motivation – which takes thoughtful &amp; willful desire, and not based on our 2 strongest emotions – fear &amp; greed                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Sense of Duty/Reasonable Sacrifice</b> – 'do all things for the glory of God' ..... <b>1Cor 10:31</b></li> <li>♦ <b>Testimony</b> – People and Angels are watching us</li> <li>♦ "...for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things <b>willing to live honestly</b>" ..... <b>Heb 13:18</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
13:6-7	<p><b>Pay Taxes and Respect to Whom It is Due</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note.</b> The original Boston Tea Party in December 1773 was due to taxes hitting an astronomical 1%</li> <li>• v6. Rulers are servants of God (even Hitler), whether they know it or not. But are they good servants?</li> <li>• The charge to Christians is to work hard (<b>1Thes 4:12</b>); to pay our taxes &amp; smile when we do it (be respectful), and not to grumble or complain (<b>Phil 2:14</b>)</li> <li>• ...but this is so uncharacteristic of what people normally do, especially in free democratic nations</li> <li>• ...and what is the end result of working hard &amp; paying our taxes and respect? We win others.... <b>1Thes 4:12-13</b></li> </ul>
13:8-10	<p><b>Agape Love Allows Us to Keep the Law Perfectly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ultimate purpose of all moral codes is to promote and sustain life in a beneficial way for everyone.</li> <li>• Therefore, if we truly love our neighbors we will meticulously, effortlessly, and joyously be law-keepers.</li> </ul>
13:11-13	<p><b>The Final Motivator – The Law-Giver is Coming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul rattles off several more commands for us to keep                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stop sinning (deeds of darkness)</li> <li>2. Start living righteously (armor of light)</li> <li>3. Behave properly in all situations</li> <li>4. Stop being selfish party animals</li> <li>5. Start being dedicated followers of Christ</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

**Is Being a Law-Keeper Being Legalistic**

- In its purest since – YES
- The bad form of legalism is forcing people to keep laws to achieve some kind of self-induced righteousness
  - ♦ Jews of Jesus' day were notoriously legalistic – where they obeyed the letter of the law while ignoring the spirit of the law.
  - ♦ Modern day forms of church legalism could include enforcing dress codes and eating/drinking habits beyond what scripture intended.
- More on this next week

**NEXT WEEK: Romans 14.** Judging others has dire consequences. Since we are going to be held accountable for every thought, word, and deed, let's think, say, and do only good things.

