

# WEEK 27 | ROMANS 13:1-7

## ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

### OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Isaiah 40:9-31
- Proverbs 21:1
- Psalm 115:1-3
- Daniel 2:20-23

### THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Gospel-transformed people are characterized by trust in God's ultimate authority. (Rom. 13:1-7; Ps. 2; Is. 40)
2. All earthly authorities are merely stewards of authority given to them by God. (Rom. 13:4-6; Is. 40:21-26; Dan. 2:20-23)
3. Gospel-transformed people live with consistent Godly character by submitting to earthly authorities without violating their conscience. (Rom. 13:5-7; Dan. 3)

### QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. Have you ever had a difficult or bad boss? How have you maintained character and conscience in those situations? What has it looked like for you to show honor and respect to people with whom you disagree?
3. How does Romans 12 as a whole shape your approach to Romans 13:1-7?
4. How does Isaiah 40:13-26 describe God's authority over earthly rulers? Do you believe this? Are you encouraged or comforted by this? Confused or defeated? If you're comfortable, share your reasoning.

*Note:* It may be an encouragement to read all of the “other helpful passages” listed above. Each of them deal with God's ultimate authority over kings and kingdoms.

5. What are some examples in Scripture of Godly men and women dealing with government? How did they fulfill Romans 13:1-7 in difficult and good times?

*Note:* I'm thinking of Esther, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Joseph, Jesus, etc.

6. How might Romans 13:1-7 challenge a person who bears the responsibility of governing? How might it affect the way you lead those under your care in the workplace or in the home?

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<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.

## PRAY TO CLOSE.

- 1 Timothy 2:1-7 commands Christians to pray for those in authority over us. To that end, pray:
  - That God might save those who are far from him.
  - That God might give them wisdom and discernment to govern in a Godly way.
  - For a Christian revival in the United States and around the world.