

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Government

"The less government we have, the better." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The proper function of government is to make it easy for people to do good, and difficult for them to do evil." – William Gladstone

"The function of government must be to favor no small group at the expense of its duty to protect the rights of personal freedom and of private property of all its citizens." -Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor." – Humbert Humphrey, speech in Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, 1965

"Do you not know with how very little wisdom the world is governed?" – A. Oxenstierna, Swedish Statesman

Sometimes governments can be very frustrating. Laws are enacted and things are implemented that we highly question. Granted, it is not something that at times we like to see. But often we forget that the government that exists is of God.

Paul revealed to the church at Rome: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." Note the words often overlooked: "there is no authority except from God," and that authority is, "appointed by God." Do you really want to be found fighting that authority?

Paul continues, "Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore, you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor" (Rom. 13:1-7).

Notice the clear reminder that the government is God's minister. Whose minister? God's!

Now this is not to say that we cannot exercise our rights as citizens to vote. But again, when those elections are held, and people are put in office, even though we may not be overly fond of them, they should be respected for it is of God. Consider even the tyranny in Paul's day with the Caesars when this was written! Remember, "For there is no authority except from God's."