

ROMANS



Vengeance?

- Never take your revenge – justice!
vindication and avenging!

- Wrath of God

- It belongs to Him and Him alone...

Don't be overcome by evil, rather overcome
the evil with good!!!

Dealing with Government

- After dealing with revenge... this!
- We are in the context of ROME!
- Absolute monarchy:
 - Caligula (37-41); Claudius (41-54);
Nero (54-68) – none good!
 - Guardian of Justice?? Vengeance
needed! God's, not ours!

Consecration includes...

- Being a good citizen!
- What applies to the church... to state!
- Vs. 1-7 ~ submission (12:3-8)
- Vs. 8-10 ~ righteousness & love (9-21)
- Why is this the case???

A command...

- *hupotasso* – military order, imperative!
- Governing authorities... broad, inclusive
- *exousía* – comes from God!?
- “divine right of kings”
- Submission and patience needed...
- Resisting God? rebellion = *kríma* man’s

Underlying charge

- Designed as 'the' *diakonos* of God
 - Like family and the church
 - Evil needs to be punished...
 - 'to you for good' - by intention (4)
 - Sword of punishment! Brings wrath...
capital punishment - Gen 9:6

Conscience?

- Not only for fear of wrath – conscience!
- Daily witness of corruption in Rome...
- Keep your heart/conscience with God
- Applications:
 - Taxes 6,7 – ‘render’ is imperative
 - Respect
 - Fear

Godet:

There is therefore a profound *distinction* between the state and the church, according to Paul's teaching, but not *opposition*, any more than between law and grace, or between justice and love. As the law paves the way for grace, and as the conscientious practice of justice prepares the soul for the exercise of love, so the state, by repressing crime, preserves public order, and thereby the condition in which the church can tranquilly pursue her work, that of transforming the citizens of the earth into citizens of the kingdom of heaven. There is thus a reciprocal service which the two institutions render to one another. But we must beware of going further; the church has nothing more to ask of the state than her freedom of action...

Love (vs.8)

- Always comes back to this!
- Be in debt in nothing but loving!
- Has fulfilled - *pleroo* - perfect active
- 2nd Tablet: adultery, murder, theft, covet, false witness
- Any other? Lev 19:18 - 'as yourself'