

# A CHRISTIAN RESONSE TO OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT

June 8, 2014, 6 PM

Romans 13:1-7

## I. BIBLICAL INSTRUCITON:

“The powers that be are ordained of God, Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God” (Rom. 13:1, 2a). Therefore, we must:

- A. Submit to rulers
- B. Pray for rulers (I Tim. 2:1-3)
- C. If rulers’ demands violate Scripture
  - 1. Be sure our position is biblical
  - 2. Stand humbly but resolutely upon biblical truth
  - 3. Try to get rulers to change their demands: Negotiate, Legislate, Litigate
  - 4. Practice our biblical convictions and submit to whatever result rulers impose.

## II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- A. Daniel and the King’s Diet (Daniel 1:8-14)
- B. Shadrach, Meshack & Abed-nego (Daniel 3:4-6; 16-20; 24-25)
- C. Daniel and den of lions (Daniel 6:5, 10-11, 15-18)
- D. Peter: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:17-19, 25-29)

## III. OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE

A. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene insists that we obtain a Youth Camp Certificate in order to offer our summer day camp ministry. This demand was made several years ago, and we objected. The Department then responded that our objections were correct, and that certification is not required. Our objections have not changed.

B. The law requires certification for camps that meet a minimum of 7 days in a 3-week period and offer 3 or more activities or 1 specialized activity. Our camps offer 1 specialized activity, meeting for 5 days, and therefore have been exempt from requirements to seek certification. We offer 8 such camps. The state insists that we offer only one camp with eight sessions; that they it includes more than 3 activities and meets for more than 7 days in a 3-week period, and is therefore subject to state certification. This is the present point of dispute, but beyond this loom larger issues.

C. The larger issues:

All of our instruction is spiritual instruction; none of it is secular.

Is the state authorized to certify religious instruction?

Is the state qualified to distinguish between religious and non-religious instruction?

Is the state permitted to distinguish between religious and non-religious instruction?

Is it biblical for churches to seek state certification to minister?