

TEXT- Rom 13:1-7 *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For*

INTRO – Separation of church and state is not found in the constitution.

Our third President, Thomas Jefferson, wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association assuring them that he would keep the Government out of the Church (NOT the Church out of the Government). He was saying, never again will there be a government sponsored church like you had back in England, where everyone is forced to attend and support!

The first amendment actually says: **Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...**

Our first president, George Washington, took the oath of office and put his hand on what? (the Bible)

What was his first official act as President? (kissed the Bible, then held a 2 hr. praise/worship session in Congress)

How did they determine to open sessions of Congress? (prayer)

Who would lead in those prayers? (chaplains)

How would they be paid? (tax dollars)

Does all of that sound like they wanted to keep God out of government?

Who decided to put “In God We Trust” on our coins? It was adopted by Congress in 1956!

***In 1776, 11 of the 13 colonies required that one had to be a Christian to be eligible to run for political office.**

***In 1777, the Continental Congress voted to spend \$300,000 to purchase Bibles for distribution in the nation.**

***The GETTYSBURG ADDRESS states "...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."**

***94% OF THE WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE U.S. CONTAINED QUOTATIONS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.**

***THE STATE CONSTITUTIONS OF ALL 50 STATES MENTION GOD.**

***The "Liberty Bell" has part of Leviticus 25:10 inscribed on it:**

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

***Part of the Scripture Proverbs 14:34 is inscribed above the L.A. city hall door: "RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE."**

***An image of Moses carrying the tablets of God's Law faces the Speaker of the House of Representatives.**

***The entering President takes his courtroom OATH OF OFFICE with his right hand on the Holy Bible, and concludes his vow "So help me God."**

*** The Supreme Court itself begins each of its sessions with the phrase 'God save the United States and this honorable court,'**

***First Vice President and Second President, John Adams wrote in 1798: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."**

*** President Thomas Jefferson: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." - 1781**

***Our sixth President, John Quincy Adams said: "No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon as the Bible." -**

***At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin said, "God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"**

***The Christian writings and pronouncements of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln would fill an entire book. He said this when he assumed leadership over a nation on the brink of civil war:**

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." - 1863

***Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th President, wrote:**

"In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at, or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid down-grade." - 1917

***Woodrow Wilson, our 28th President and Governor of New Jersey, said this: "America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of the Holy Scripture." - 1911**

***Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, said this about our founding fathers: "They were intent upon establishing a Christian commonwealth in accordance with the principle of self- government. They were an inspired body of men. It has been said that God sifted the nations that He might send choice grain into the wilderness... Who can fail to see it in the hand of destiny? Who can doubt that it has been guided by a Divine Providence." - 1923**

*Gerald Ford, our 38th President, quoted a 1955 speech by Dwight D. Eisenhower on December 5, 1974: "Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic - expression of Americanism. Thus the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."
*President Ronald Reagan: "If we ever forget that we are 'One nation, under God', then we will be one nation gone under."

I. Christians Must Participate in Paying for Government

v. 6-7 tribute = income tax
 custom = sales tax

When Jesus was here on earth, He paid His taxes, and so should we!

"But, they're unfair" I agree!

"And, it's wasted and used unwisely" I agree!

 Certainly we need tax reform...

...but do YOU agree w/ Romans 13? Then pay your taxes!

(pay for gov't)

Government was ordained by God as necessary.

God instituted the Home, Government and the church.

II. We need to pray for gov't

1 Ti 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

There's plenty to pray for! We need a revival of doing good:

We need to pray for a revival of the sanctity of life!

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

III. We need to Praise our gov't

v. 7 "honour"

Despite all our problems, the USA is still the greatest nation on earth. We need a revival of good old-fashioned patriotism!

And we should honour our leaders, and all that are in authority...like police officers, like our boss (good or bad...v. 1), we should honour our parents, for God placed them in authority over us, we should honor our spiritual leaders...like a missionary, who gives away his life, even his freedom, for the souls of others.

IV. We Need To Participate In Government

It is inconceivable that God would ordain gov't such as He has, and then tell His people to stay out of it!

It is our Christian duty to get informed, and vote!

Shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to a political party, instead of principles...

V. We need To Persuade Government

How can we really make a difference?

We are a republic...that means that, for the most part, public policy is shaped by public opinion. And there's only 1 way to affect public opinion: and it's not billboards, radio, or TV...it's to get the Word of God into the hearts of people.

People change their mind about things after they get saved.

Abortion, marriage and separation from the world all change when the Bible is applied.

CONCL- The most patriotic thing we can do is not to set off fireworks, or sing a song, but to witness... Let's build a church that will stand as a great light to a dark and dying world!