

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Living in the Present Time

Romans 13

"And do this, understanding the present time." Romans 13:11a

Read Romans 13:1-7.

1. Why does Paul say we are to submit to the governing authorities? (vv. 1-7)

2. Consider your view of authority and those who govern. Do you honor and respect those in authority? Do they have to "earn" your respect? Are you cynical about them? Does your view need to change?

3. Submission to authority does not mean unconditional obedience at all times. Look at Acts 4:18-20 and 5:27-29.
 - a. Under what condition is it our duty to disobey the governing authorities? (📖 Ex. 1:15-17)

 - b. What consequences might we face for our disobedience?

4. In this passage, we are commanded to submit to authorities, honor them, and pay the taxes due to them. What further responsibility do we have toward those in authority? (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
Take a moment now and do this.

5. What two responsibilities do authorities have toward those they govern? (v. 4)

How does the second of these responsibilities contrast with our duty as individual Christians?
(12:19-20)

6. Why should we pay taxes? (vv. 6-7; 1 Tim. 5:18)

Read Romans 13:8-10.

7. What is the only debt that we never finish paying off? (v. 8)

8. Look at the commandments Paul lists in verse 9. How do they demonstrate Paul's point that "love is the fulfillment of the law" (v. 10)?

9. Do Paul’s command to love and his statement that “love is the fulfillment of the law” mean that we are under a new system of works righteousness? (Rom. 3:21–22; 7:6)

Read Romans 13:11–14.

10. What do you think Paul means by “the present time” (v. 11)?
11. How does a proper understanding of the *present time* encourage us to lead a life of love and godliness? (Mk. 13:33–37; 2 Pet. 3:10–14)
12. How do you tend to “slumber” (v. 11)? What needs to happen for you to “wake up” (v. 11)? (vv. 11-14)
13. What “day” is “almost here” (v. 12; Is. 13:13)? (📖 Joel 2:30–32; Rev. 6:12–17)

How do we as believers view the coming Day of the Lord? (Is. 12) (📖 Lk. 21:25–28)

14. List the pairs of positive and negative commands in the following verses.

v. 12:

Positive

Negative

v. 13:

v. 14:

15. How do we keep from “gratifying the desires of the sinful nature”(v. 14b)? (v. 14a) (Consider Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1-2)
16. What are some ways in which we can “clothe [ourselves] with the Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 14)? (Col. 3:12–14)