

# Romans 13

Sunday 2/21/2010

Last week, we saw the great principles in Romans chapter 13 on accountability and responsibility to our government. Week by week, we have learned and added to what we already have learned in the past, our concepts, so we get a better perspective of our relationship to our government. Romans chapter 13 is the great chapter that deals with the aspect of submitting ourselves to a different, higher authority and our accountability to it.

Last week, we talked about some great principles, and you found that even though we are talking about government, there is a lot of practical application to your life and my life. Last week, we talked about the great concept in that passage that talked about being afraid—how the breakdown in our own country of the fear of the consequences of doing something wrong. It is the fear of breaking man's laws within civil government. But then we talked about how it is also the fear of breaking God's laws within the spiritual government, the church.

Then we moved into the great issue of capital punishment, one of the most controversial issues today that we all face. Now you should have a better understanding of the biblical principles that show that capital punishment is very clearly a Bible doctrine. It is taught back in the Old Testament before the law, when in Genesis 9 we saw in Numbers 35 that once the law was established, it was a very clear teaching under the Old Testament. Then from Romans 13:4 last week, and again I showed you Acts 25:11, you find it during the church age. You, as a child of God, now have a better perspective on it from God's Word.

These things may not seem like they are important, but if you are going to deal with people and talk to people, or you are going to even teach the Bible to people sometime or the other, these questions are going to come up because they are questions that we have to deal with in our own society, our own state, the state of Kansas. Across this country, the issue of capital punishment is not going to go away. The more and the farther our country gets away from the Bible, the farther God's people get away from the Bible, we see these issues coming up.

## I. The Biblical Mandate to Pay Taxes

We are going to pick it up today in another great thing you are all going to enjoy today. In fact, if I did not know better, I would think that the weather had nothing to do with most of you coming today. You somehow found out what I was going to preach on today and did not want to hear it. But I know that is not true.

Let me begin reading again in Romans 13:1. It says this:

*Romans 13:1-7*

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

*Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

*For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*

*For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

*Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

*For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.*

*Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

We talked about that word "damnation," and we know that that does not mean dying and going to hell, but a physical damnation. In other words, if you break the law, there is going to be a penalty that you pay, and that is a damnation of your flesh, but not your soul. You remember I talked about how you do not just do right because of the fact that you know there is a consequence to it, but you also do right because you have a conscience. When you understand what we have tried to lay out, and you should have this in your Bible, especially you people that are aspiring to be leaders in the church, you have to understand these things because it shows us very clearly that not only do you do it because there is a penalty for breaking a law, but there is also a conscience that we have to deal with, and that conscience is based on our relationship with God.

Once you realize what we have talked about, about our government, how that government is ordained of God, it is one of the three institutions that God has put together to keep civil unrest from taking over. One of them was the family, the other one was the church, and of course, then we looked at civil government. We realized that even though the governments may be bad, and all governments are, and many governments are run by unsaved people, and I showed you examples down through history how God still used those nations to get done what He wants to get done. I think we came to the conclusion last week that no matter whether the nation is of God or it is not, the bottom line is that all things work toward the coming back of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom, and God will use the nations that are even wicked nations to bring about that purpose. He also will take the church, and He will use the church to bring about from the other angle winning men and women to Christ to bring about their salvation to establish His kingdom.

Now we are going to pick it up in verse 6 today. In verse 6, we come to the part in Romans 13 that deals with you and me paying taxes, and this is why I thought that if people would have found out about this, nobody wants to pay their taxes. Again, another great controversy in Christianity and in the secular world. You need to know this today, and I am going to show you not only what the Bible says—and you know that we are not interested in what websites say, we are not interested in your opinion any more than my opinion or the last person you read or the last person you talked to—but it is important for you and for me, and I think you have seen this

as we have come through the book of Romans. It is important for you and me to understand how these things have to work because we live in it.

You are going to find in America among Christian groups what is called a modern tax movement, and you may not know anything about it yet, but if you grow up and you keep going and you get into the ministry, at some point you certainly will run into it at some point or the other. The modern tax movement is the idea that the Constitution of the United States makes no provision to pay taxes. Therefore, Christians and many people that are in the secular part of the world, they do not believe that they have to, and they take the position that because it is not clearly spelled out in the Constitution, that paying taxes is unconstitutional. That idea has been going around since probably the late 70s and the early 80s and the early 90s.

One of the men that fostered this was a guy by the name of Greg Dixon. Greg Dixon was a pastor of a Baptist church back in the 70s and the 80s. He got caught up in the movement of the modern tax movement, and he literally spent—and you know this is so true with many, many people, and it is something that you always want to keep in your own life—a balance. He got so focused on the taxes being unconstitutional that he forgot everything else he was doing. The ministry then suddenly, from being what I teach you guys, being multidimensional, now became tunnel vision for him, and whatever he did, wherever he went, all he could preach, all he could say, and all that just enveloped him was that paying taxes was unconstitutional. He probably in 10 or 15 years influenced hundreds, maybe thousands of churches, maybe thousands or tens of thousands of Christians. Wherever he would go, his focus would be, "It is unconstitutional to pay your taxes." Pastors would have him in because he found some new great truth, and the people needed to know it. Greg Dixon started out as a great, great, great pastor who had a good church, and the last I heard of him, he had another great ministry, but it was the prison ministry because they got him for not paying his income tax, and he went to prison. It is one of those things where that is where the modern tax movement ends.

Then we have another kind of group of people that I have had, probably in my ministry of 35 plus years, four or five guys who have tried to do this. They try to get out of paying taxes because they got the idea someplace, "You see, as a church, we are tax exempt." I am not; as a pastor, I pay my taxes like everybody else, but as a church, we do not pay taxes. So somebody got the bright idea that he could call his family his church, apply for a 501c, set himself up as the pastor of a church, his family, and then therefore be exempt from paying taxes. Every guy that I have dealt with over the years, and it has been about four or five guys, none since we have been here, back in my past that I have worked with, every one of them when I got to them, the IRS had already gotten to them, and you do not get away from the IRS. You need to understand that you do not.

Then we have the third type, and I appreciate this guy giving me an example of what I needed today, but I do not appreciate the fact that he did what he did, but it represents the radical. Remember this guy this week that flew his plane in Austin, Texas, into the federal building down there in Austin, Texas? After he did that, and of course, the first thing everybody thinks about is a terrorist attack, and this was not a terrorist attack; this was just a plain old nut job attack. What happened was simply this: after he did it, they found about 10 pages on his internet that his

whole gripe was with the IRS. Here is a guy that not only got fed up paying the taxes, but he wanted to show them, so he gets a plane, fills it up with gas, puts a crazy little note on the internet, and then rams his plane into the federal building simply to prove the point that he does not want to pay. He rambled and rambled and rambled about the paying of taxes and how it was unfair and the government was this. You know what? I agree with what most of he said, but I do not take that radical position where I am about to ram my—I do not have an airplane, I guess I would have to do my Ford Ranger—into an IRS building or any other building for that matter.

My point is simply this: we have got to the point where we have to understand about paying taxes. Now I pay taxes, and I do not like it any more than the guy that ran his plane into the deal, and I do not like it any more than you do. I complain about it just like everybody else. I think the tax system is totally unfair. I think that it is totally corrupt. I think the laws that they have and the statutes of file element are totally confusing, and I think that, like everything else in the government, it takes away from anything that we want to do, and it is all corrupt, and the whole thing is broken down. But I want you to understand, I pay taxes as a Bible believer, even though I think the system is stupid and I think it is corrupt, and I hope by the time we are done today, you get a better understanding of why I do what I do and why you should do what you do.

I know people that talk about the fact that they think about, "Well, if I did not have to pay 35% taxes," which I think is the golden rate, "if I did not have to pay taxes, look at all the money I would have, and I can have a better life and do this and do that." Well, first of all, I pay my taxes fully knowing that whatever taxes I pay really have nothing to do with my survival and my income. You know why that is? Because of a principle in the Bible, Philippians 4:19, that says, "In spite of me paying taxes, my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." I do not use that as an excuse. I realize that no matter what I do or what I have to pay or what I do, that has nothing to do with if I am going to eat tomorrow.

When I got saved, and this is the point you need to understand, when you got saved, from that point on, you were God's property, and God is going to take care of everything that you need. Now we as Christians need to divide out our needs from our wants, and we would say, "Well, God is not giving me what I need." No, maybe God is not giving you what you want, but God will always meet your needs. So when I look at paying taxes or I look at anything else, a lot of times people will not give to a church that are members of a church, and they do not tithe, and they simply say to themselves in their mind, and I understand where they are coming from, and I realize there is a process of growing, but they will say to themselves, "This will be their fundamental deal: if I do that, then I will not be able to meet the bills or will not be able to do this." Of course, again, I am just telling you, anything that you are required to give or anything that God asks you to do once you become His child, He is going to supply all of your need. I have never seen a child of God starve to death, and I have never seen a child of God go without what God had for him to have. Now it may not be what we think we ought to have, and I have got to make that point. But I am of the persuasion that paying taxes or whatever I am to do has absolutely nothing to do with me having what I need because all of that comes from God.

I also believe that people get caught up in this modern tax movement, and you are going to run into it sooner or later. You are going to find some Christian, and maybe you will not know it at

the time, but you are going to find some Christian that refuses to pay taxes. I have met them over the years, and I have met people who have gotten out of the tax system many, many, many years ago, and maybe they have not—they think because they have not gotten caught yet that they are not going to get caught. We had a young man in our church in my ministry a while back that, and I can never figure all this out, what was going on. They seemed like a good kid, and I could just never figure the thing out. After they left about six or seven months, I got a call from the—scared the fire out of me—I got a call from what I thought was the FBI, with the Fed guys, and they wanted to come down and talk. So they came over and they talked, and they were asking about this guy, and they wanted to know who he worked for and what he did, who he did it for, and in the process of time, showed me that this guy had not paid taxes for like eight or nine years. The bottom line is, you do not get away from it. Sooner or later, they will track you down, and when they do track you down, you will not be able to say, "It is unconstitutional." You will not be able to say, "Well, it is unfair and it is corrupt."

Hey, you think I like the fact that the guy they put in front of the IRS was a guy that did not pay his taxes? He did not pay his taxes and got found about it. He just said, "Oops." You try that. You know what the state of Kansas is saying? If you got an income tax check back from the state of Kansas—I know they did it last year and are talking about doing it this year, and Missouri will probably follow suit—they are going to delay giving you your tax refund. They do not have any money. So they are going to tell you to wait four months, five months, three months, two months, and then they are going to get your refund check to you. If you wrote them a nice letter and said, "I am having struggles, I will send you my tax money in two months, three months, four months after the deadline," see how that fits. It will not fit. They will be intolerant with you, but they want you to be tolerant with them. Hey, I do not like it. I do not like it at all. But I am telling you that people get caught up in these things because they do not know their Bible. They do not understand the very things that I am talking to you about.

Somebody may say, "Well, Romans 13 is not as exciting as talking about the Antichrist or talking about this or that." To me, it is just as exciting because I cannot separate one piece of the Bible from another and say, "This is and this is not." To me, it is the fundamental backbone of what we live every day. If you are really going to get involved with people, and you are at some point, and you start dealing with people, it will all be a matter of time before you bump into something like this.

## II. The Danger of Biblical Illiteracy

Let me tell you a story. The most dangerous thing to this world, and I have told you this before, the most dangerous thing to this world is a Christian who really knows his Bible. But the most dangerous thing to Bible Christianity is a Christian who does not know his Bible, because they get caught up in everything in the world.

I am going to tell you a story. Back in the 80s, there was a young man by the name of John Todd. John Todd showed up in a Baptist church in Indiana. He came to a Sunday night service, came forward in the service, and confessed to everybody in the service that he was a witch that had been part of a national group of satanic people who were plotting the overthrow of the United

States of America. He stood up in front of this whole church and said, "I need to confess this, and I need you to help me." Immediately, the church was drawn to him. John Todd began to spin the web even more in the coming weeks and the coming months. He began to talk about how the system, this satanic system, was entailed in everything in our country. He began to talk about the fact that people who were in high places were really part of this satanic organization. He talked about the quickly coming collapse totally of the United States. He talked about that everybody, and he named names and talked about how everybody in the government who was anybody was secretly part of this organization. He talked about the fact that they were going to take away all of their guns, and so he encouraged all these churches to go out and buy guns. He said there was a coming famine, and food was going to be rationed, so everybody went out and bought food. This went from church to church to church to church to church. I mean, I have known pastors that suddenly were having this guy in, and they had it—instead of having Bible conferences, they were holding survival conferences. Everything that went on, John talked a little bit more and gave them a little bit more information. He had one of them, he was going to reveal that he knew who the Antichrist really was. Oh, that got everybody's attention. At the end of the day, Jimmy Carter was president then. At the end of the day, to the gasp of everybody, he confided and told them, based on his deep involvement in this satanic organization that was throughout our government and throughout our country that he was part of, and that he was partly to spurt information, he revealed to all these Baptist churches that the Antichrist was Jimmy Carter. Now, anybody who knows their Bible would know that the Antichrist may be a lot of things, but he is not going to be a peanut farmer from Georgia.

It was found out in time that Johnny Todd was a fraud. Dr. Ruckman back there put out a tape, and Dr. Ruckman exposed him before he ever got off the ground. I think his tape is probably still on his website back there, and the name of the tape was, and he always puts a little funny twist to it, "The Wandering of Johnny Todd." He laid that thing out in such a way that anybody—my point is that anybody with a Bible, anybody with a Bible, could have figured this thing out way before it happened.

Did you ever wonder why you got guys like Oral Roberts? Now he just died a little while ago. You got this guy by the name of Tilton. You got Joel Osteen. You have had before them, you had T.T. Oswald down in Oklahoma and Kathryn Kuhlman in the 50s and the 60s. Do you realize how much money it takes to put on a television program on prime time TV on a major network? Do you realize how much it costs for guys like Jimmy Swaggart or Oral Roberts or Tilton or Joel Osteen to pay for television time? You think it just—you know how many millions of dollars it takes? Do you not realize that what keeps them on the air time after time, and sometimes two or three spots a week? These people believe in what they do and send them money. Now they are no different than old Johnny Todd back there. They just come at it from a different angle.

I want to tell you something. The most gullible people on this planet, the most gullible people on this planet, are people who do not understand the Bible. Nothing shows the shallowness of a church, a pastor, or Christians more than when they get made a fool of by somebody out there, either religiously or somebody like Johnny Todd, and they are always out there. Hey, I get four or five people send me stuff every week on the internet, and I love it because I like to keep

abreast of it, and I do not have time to mess with it, and I do not have time to look for it. People find it, people send it to me, and I get a chuckle out of it. Sometimes it is good, sometimes it is not. Cleon, you sent me that thing on—that was an incredible thing, the State of the Union address—that was an incredible thing. Everybody in this church had to hear that. It was an incredible thing that he sent me. Then I get something else about alien Martians as far as throwing babies in Roman Catholic convents. It is weird stuff wherever you go. You can hear whatever you want to hear today, and that is why you have to come to the point that you realize, you have to realize that you have to have a perspective. You have to know these things. You have to understand these things because there is a million Johnny Todds out there looking to fleece everybody, and there is a million people out there trying to get what you have and get your support. I will tell you what, nobody on this planet is more gullible than God's people without a Bible.

This is why I tell you time and time again, and I keep it before you all the time, you have to learn the biblical principles. If there is anything that Romans does, it breaks down almost systematically for you and shows you God's perspective. It just happened to be in chapter 13 that deals with your understanding of the civil government, but it is an incredible thing. Nobody on earth is more dependent on good leadership than God's people. It is just that simple. In the Old Testament, you saw it was true. God had to send them Moses and Aaron in the early part. Once the kingdom of Israel got established, God sent them the kings of Israel. Did you ever notice how Israel's spiritual condition goes up and down based on the leadership? When you give them a good king like David, they are up. When you give them a bad king like Ahab, they are down. You know why that is? Because God's people have always been and always will be dependent on good, solid biblical leadership to keep them on track. That is why God gave the concept of the church.

My job as a pastor is not just to teach you the things about the Bible that are the exciting things. You need to understand, as Paul said, the whole counsel of God. You need to understand, especially in the day and age that we are living in, what you are up against out there in the world. You know what? Finding a church, a good church, is just as important in my mind as finding the right spouse. You hear me say it all the time. You marry the wrong lady or the wrong gal, and you may just kiss your whole millennial inheritance away. But at the same time, you get in the wrong church or you find the wrong church or you get into a place that will not teach you the Bible, and you might as well kiss away everything that God has for you because we as God's people are dependent on the leadership that God provides for us.

I will tell you right now, I will tell you right now how to always spot an honest church. You will find an honest church because whoever the pastor is will always be painting himself into a small corner. How does he do that? He does that by teaching Bible truth. He does that by arming the men and the women in his church that they have the same information that he has. In other words, he builds them to know the Bible as good as he does, or if not better. When a man does that, he does that for one purpose, and that is the fact that one, he wants you to have the Bible and believe that you ought to be on an equal par, that you can know the Bible as good as anybody. But at the same time, he builds his own self into accountability. I guarantee you, I could

never get up in this church and teach bad Bible or doctrine that is bad or heresy without 50 of you guys and gals nailing me with it. You know why? Because I painted myself into that small corner. You have to have an accountability as a pastor, and when you do not teach your people the Bible, you know what you do? Then you do not have any accountability, and you can teach whatever you want, and people do not know the difference.

I do not care what a man believes. I deal with people all the time. People ask me questions. People come in and talk with me. I get a bad rap a lot of times because people think that I am so dogmatic and I only think one way. That is not true. I am the most open-minded person you ever met in your life. I do not form any opinion until after I hear what a person has to say, but this is what I operate on. I do not care what a man or a woman believes. I really do not. I really do not care what a person believes, but what really bothers me is somebody who shoots their mouth off but does not even know what they believe themselves. That becomes the problem.

I found out all of my life, I have people attack me because we believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. One guy one time, he said, "Well, you believe the King James Bible is the Word of God," and I said, "Yeah, I do." He says, "Why do you believe that?" I talked about the family of manuscripts and went down through that, and he is saying, "Well, you know what?" He said, "I do not really," he said, "I believe this and believe that." He was laying out that. Same question. I said, "What is the difference between a Greek manuscript and a Greek New Testament?" He did not have a clue. Now if you are sitting here this morning and you claim to know something about the Bible in its history, if you do not know there is a vast difference between a Greek manuscript and a Greek New Testament, well, you have got some learning to do. But people will get up and they will talk about thinking like they understand the issues and can talk about them when they do not even understand the fundamental bottom line to it.

We find out in every area. You know why there are some people out there, bless their hearts today, that they believe they can lose their salvation? I feel sorry for people like that. I mean, I have never understood why a person got so excited and wanted to defend the fact that he is probably going to die and go to hell someday. Losing your salvation, if you know your Bible, is the most incredibly goofy thing you could ever want to believe. There are 12 different functions, doctrines about your salvation in the Bible. You get somebody that says, "Well, I believe I could lose my salvation." My first question is, "List out those 12 for me." They cannot because if you knew those 12, you would never believe you could lose your salvation. Tongues is another issue. Why do people get hung up in that? Why do people get hung up on things like that? How about healing? We have got the new thing now coming out today that all the great Bible teachers, quote unquote, as far as the Christian world, now have all shifted back to Calvinism—the fact that God chose some people to go to heaven and some people to go to hell. I look at that and I think to myself, "How does a person who absolutely knows any Bible at all ever come to that conclusion?" We have got people just like back in Johnny Todd's day that thought that Jimmy Carter was the Antichrist. Do not take it away from that. We have got a whole bunch of people that think that Obama is the Antichrist. You see, it never changes. It is just people come and people go, but the goofiness continues. That is why you as a child of God need to understand your Bible. You need to understand your Bible.

We had some people come into the church a while back, and they liked it for a while, and they come in and talk to me and wanted to come over, and they came over, and all I heard for an hour was how the Illuminati is taking over the world. Illuminati was everything. You know what I asked them? I asked them, "Tell me when the Illuminati started." They did not know when it started, but it is taking over the world. They did not know anything about it. I asked them what the word "Illuminati" meant. They did not know, but they are taking over the world. My bottom line is, people think it is everybody. People think it is the Illuminati. Somebody else will say, "Well, it is the Bilderberg," or "It is the Jewish banking system." Everybody has their opinion over what is going on in this world. Most of it has nothing to do with the Bible. If you really know your Bible, you know that these things are absolutely ridiculous, and you fall victim of every new wind or teaching that comes off the internet down the road. Some friend will get it and pass it on to you, and you will see it. You will not know how to deal with the Bible, so it will make you afraid.

Somebody sent me an email last week and said, "Pass it out to all the church people that they are going to plan on your income tax that you are going to have to declare every gun that you got, and every gun that you got, you have to declare, and then they are going to charge you a tax on it, and they are going to tax every gun that you got." It was like they were the only one in the world who knew that. The NRA did not know anything about it. Let me tell you something, there is nothing that goes on in this world the NRA does not know about when it deals with your guns. But it is like he got it off the internet. Somebody told him, somebody put a name on it, and off he goes. These are the issues that you, in life, we have to deal with, and we fall victim to them. Most of the times, we do not have any idea of what it is all about and how to deal with it. That is the problem we find. That is how people get into this modern tax mess. That is how people get into these ideas and wind up in all kinds of problems way over their head with the IRS and all kinds of issues. Or in a simpler form, simply do not know how to talk to somebody who wants to bring it up.

### III. Jesus' Teaching on Taxes

In dealing with taxes in your Bible, you have a real clear model in your Bible. Turn over to Luke 20. In Luke 20:21-26, you could not find a clearer model than this. This is exactly what God wants you to know. We have talked a lot about biblical models. Well, here is one for you.

Did you ever notice how, when God wrote the four Gospels, did you ever notice the men that He picked? I think it is amazing. When He wanted to talk about the deity of His Son and wanted to run the genealogy of His Son back to God, you know who He picked? He picked John. Because John is the greatest type of the Christian, and John is the one of the twelve who goes all the way, and John has an incredible relationship with God. So when God wanted to pick one of the apostles to write one of the four Gospels and the one about the deity of His Son, He picked John.

When He wanted to pick the one that dealt with, in Mark, dealt with our servant, He picked John Mark. If you want to learn about service, study Mark because John Mark wrote Mark. You know who John Mark was, do you not? He was the guy that went with Paul on the first missionary trip and then bailed out and went back because he could not handle it, and then wanted to go the next

trip, and him and Paul and Barnabas got in a big deal over the thing, and God split the thing, and they got two missionary trips, and John Mark was a washout. But later on, God restored him, and Paul brought him back in, and he said, "Bring John Mark, he is profitable to me." So you know who He picked to write about Jesus Christ as a servant? A failed servant. Do you not see the implications of that for me and you? I am a failed servant. You are a failed servant. So when God picked a book that wanted to show His service, He picked a failed servant, showing you that you and I as servants of Christ, we are going to fail. But you know what? Just as John Mark would gain profitable in time, even though we fail, we become profitable. You know why there is no genealogy in Mark? I mean, you find a genealogy in Matthew, you find a genealogy in Luke, and you find a genealogy in John. You know why you find no one in Mark? Because Mark is a servant, and a servant does not have a genealogy.

Now when He wanted to write about the physical birth of Christ, when He wanted to write about the physical birth of Christ that dealt with Christ's physical birth, you know who He picked? He picked Luke. You know why He picked Luke? Luke was a medical doctor. So He gave you the details. You want to know at the beginning of life? You want to know when life starts? You want to end the controversy? We could end it this morning if we had the time. That is another big issue. When does life start? When does life end? What about life support? What about this? What about that? You know what? You do not think the Bible clears that issue up? Well, I will tell you where He cleared it up. He cleared it up with the birth of His Son, written by a medical doctor of the day, Luke. So in Luke, He is presented as the Son of Man. So His genealogy of Luke goes back through Mary and Joseph.

Then we come to Matthew. Matthew is the book that deals with the political kingdom. So you know who He picked for Matthew to write? Matthew. You know who Matthew was? He is a tax collector. He is a tax collector. He worked for the IRS in Jerusalem. Let us see what Jesus had to say.

*Luke 20:21-26*

*And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly:*

*Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?*

*But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?*

*Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.*

*And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.*

*And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.*

Jesus Himself sets the standard for paying taxes by saying, "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and give unto God what is God's." He Himself followed the line of paying taxes. There was not any more corrupt tax system, any more corrupt government world in the Roman Empire at this

time. But look at verse 26: "And they could not take hold of his words." You know what? That is the problem today. That is the problem today. Here is the real issue with people today, found in verse 26. People just cannot get a hold of His words. They just cannot get their hands wrapped around what the book says.

## IV. The Famine of Hearing God's Word

Turn over to Amos 8. I hear a lot today about a great famine coming. I talk about how you and I are—everybody says, "You need to stockpile food. You need to do this." Prices are going up at the grocery stores and all the things you have got to deal with and the world food shortage. You just hear, and that is another controversial issue. That is something else that you are always faced with. But I want you to understand it from God's perspective. Look at Amos 8. I want to show you that a famine is already here, and a famine that is already here has nothing to do with food and water. That may be coming, but I will show you the one that you have got to really worry about that is already here.

*Amos 8:11-12*

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:*

*And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

You know why people cannot get a hold of God's Word today? You know why they could not get a hold of the Word of God when God told them what they said back there? I will tell you why, because they had already rejected what He said. You know why God's people cannot get a hold of the Word of God today? They cannot get a grasp on how to deal with their government or to deal with the Johnny Todds of life or the Illuminati or their own losing of their salvation or speaking in tongues or healing or some other goofy thing. They listen to everybody out there, and they have got to kind of roll the dice of who is right and who is wrong because they have no understanding. They themselves cannot get their hands on the Word of God. Now you notice that passage says that the Word of God is here. The problem is not in this passage that they cannot find it. The problem is that they are not hearing it. It is here. When the Word of God is here today, God's people just cannot hear it. Many of them do not want to hear it. It is an incredible passage to show you that where we are at today, it is exactly where we are at. Men and women today simply are not able to get a hold of His Word, even though you can go out and get a copy of His Bible and His words, it is the fact that they do not believe it anymore.

Now with that in itself, the fact that Jesus gave you the first aspect and told you that He paid taxes, look at Romans 13:6 again. This is a great lesson for you when you read your Bible. I told the people Thursday night that in a couple of weeks, on Thursday night, we have got so many new people in the church and so many people that are trying to figure out their Bibles. I am going to have a special time on Thursday night where I show you how to put notes in your Bible. I am going to show you how to have a systematic way that will work for you as a young Christian. I am going to use some of the folks that have been around for a while and show you

some of their examples. But I want to help you do that because you have got to come to the point in your life at some point where you begin to take the Word of God and get a hold of it. That is the only way you have got to do it.

I know you folks think that I just memorized the Bible completely all the way through, and that is why I can come to Thursday night Bible study and just answer any question, and any time you come over, I see when they got the answer, you think I just memorized all that stuff. If you knew how stupid I really was and how hard it is for me to remember things and how hard it is for me to put things, what I have simply done is I have, again, I have taken my Bible, and over a process of years, I have developed a system in my Bible that is infallible as far as giving me the answer to what the questions are. Now, why do I not just print off all my notes and give them to you? You think that would solve the problem? Like somebody said, "I wish you could have your Bible for a week." Well, I will rent it to you for \$5,000, but at the end of the week, you will not get anything out of it. You know why? There are things to me. You would be calling me on the phone every 15 minutes, which is not included in your \$5,000, and want to know, "What does this mean? What does this mean? What is this?" I cannot read this. I can read my writing. I cannot read my writing sometimes, but I know my style, which is no style. I can follow along, but I am telling you, I had to develop my own Bible that works for me.

Now, we give out wide margin Bibles. We sell them back there, and just about everybody in our church is going to have one. I mean, two things in life: you cannot go to heaven without a red pencil, and you cannot go to heaven without a wide margin Bible. I tell you all the time, the greatest study Bible you ever have is your own, and you learn how to put these things in. The purpose is you build your own Bible, study Bible, that when you get into a scenario, you have everything that you need at your fingertips. I do not care if you are just a young person just getting into the Bible, or you are somebody that has been around for a while. I will show you some good things to do that will help you put your Bible in a proper format, because you and me have to be able to get a hold of His words. These are the things that I am going to show you.

Look at Romans 13:6. We are coming down through here, and we are reading down through here, and suddenly in verse 6, he starts out your paying taxes section by saying this: "For for this cause pay ye tribute also." Wow, missed that, did we not? You know what he just said? He says, "For this cause pay ye tribute also." He just told you that something he just said, something he just laid out, is the key why you need to know why you pay your taxes. These are the kind of things you need to learn in your Bible. These are the kind of things that first time through you do not get it, maybe the first two or three years you do not get it, but in time, if somebody shows you and you learn and you start marking these down, these are the things that jump out at you that give you what you need to understand what you need to understand. He is saying that something he already said is the reason we are to pay taxes. Of course, this is why I keep telling you, reading and paying attention to everything that the Word of God says.

Now he says, "For this cause." Now here are the causes: verse 4, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good." Verse 6 again, which is after verse 4, but it says, "For they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing." I told you last week that the name, the word "minister" or "ministry," it is not always associated with churches. England has a prime minister.

We have foreign ministers. Many times the kings in the Bible, and I showed you some great examples of some wicked kings like the king of Babylon and Cyrus and Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, how God called them His ministers, how God called them His shepherds. We saw that these are unsaved, wicked kings that died and probably went to hell. But we also saw how God used the wicked kings in the nations to get His people back to the land. In that sense, they are God's minister. In that sense, they all work toward the end result, even though they do not believe anything about the Bible. That is the thing you have got to see. Once you understand that they are ministers, and this country, good or bad, any country, good or bad, they are for God's ministry, attending continually upon the very thing, and that they are ministers of God to thee for good.

Now I pay taxes, and I told you, even if I did not have to, I would not, but I have to. I mean, I will not be happy about it. It burns me. You know that every Roman Catholic priest in this city, in this country, does not pay taxes. There is not a Roman Catholic priest anywhere in this country that pays any kind of income tax. None. And yet I am a minister, and I have got to pay it. Some of you are ordained, and you have got to pay it. I do not like that. I do not think that is fair. I will tell you something else. If you have a Christian school or whatever the case, you cannot get a dime from the government. They will not give you anything. And yet a Catholic school is not only tax exempt, but a Catholic school gets federal tax dollars to support their school when you and I cannot, if we had a Christian school. It is not fair. I do not like it. But that is beside the point. You see, it burns me, but that is the way it is. That is just the way it is.

I do not pay my taxes because of the Constitution or because of the Roman Catholic Church getting a free ride or somebody else getting a free ride. You will never see me get up and say, "It is unconstitutional." You will never say, "It is not fair." Yet I believe all those things. I pay the taxes due to the government because the government requires it of me, and God does also, because in His setting up of the institution of government, He also shows us how we support those governments and those ministries. This is what He is meaning when He says, "I have already told you so and already laid it out."

It is a Bible fact. God's people have always supported the governmental structure that God provided for them. In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 18 and Malachi 3:10, the Old Testament structure was the kingdom of heaven run by a Levitical priesthood. It was God's government and God's structure in the Old Testament. You know what God did? God provided that government to be supported by the people. It was His religious government. It was His ministry to them. But He required by their tithes and their offerings that that is how that ministry got supported in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, it is the same way today with the church. The church is God's spiritual government today. We took up a little offering a while ago, and I made it very clear that if you are a visitor here or somebody that is scoping out our church and you do not want to be a member of this church, you do not have to give anything. We do not look for anything. You know why? Because we understand the Bible says that this is God's government and God's structure. When you are part of this structure, when you are part of this government, when you say, "Yeah, that is where I am hanging my hat, and that is where I am going to grow spiritually,"

at that point, just like in the Old Testament nation of Israel, they supported God's governmental structure with their tithes and offerings, the church does the same thing.

But it does not end there. Civil government is no different. If it is God's governmental system, and it is, and they are God's ministers, Romans 13:4, and they are, and it is for God's honor and glory, even though it may not look like it is, and it is, and all things work together for good, the remnant of God, and it does, and these things are ordained of God, Romans 13:4, and it was, then paying taxes is the way that we support this government just as our tithes support the church government, and it is that simple. When the government requires us to pay it, I pay it. You know why? Because Romans 13 says that is how God gets His government structured.

We look at the government because we do not know the Bible. We cannot get around the Bible and get the words. We look at it and say, "Well, it is wicked, it is evil. The Constitution says nothing about it, therefore I am not going to do it." I agree. The Constitution says absolutely nothing, and it is wicked. But I pay it because in Romans 13, he says it is God's ministry, and God's people have always supported God's ministry. That is how it stays in power. You see, we just look at it as the bad aspect. We do not realize that every bad thing in this country, and it comes back to your mind and to your perspective. You can look at this country, and you can look at it two ways. You can look at it as the most debauched, messed up, screwed up—I mean, absolutely out the door. I mean, just absolutely nothing good in it with one end or the other. I mean, the Democrats or the Republicans, there is not anybody good in the thing, and this system is busted and broke, and you can complain about it, or you can see it in the light of the Word of God that that is the way it is supposed to be before Jesus Christ comes back. You can look at it, "Oh, woe is me. I am in this terrible situation," or you can say, "Hot, boy, I am excited, kids. We are at the front row seat of the end of the world. Let us enjoy it." Your perspective.

You see, we have lived so long as God's people without the principles of God in our lives. We do not see God in anything anymore. We just see the bad. We see a country that is ready to unshaky legs, and ready to collapse and fall over, and we think, "Oh, woe is me." You know why? Because we are worried about how it is going to affect me, my income, my kids, my future, my bank account, my stocks and bonds. Of course, if you have the right perspective, all that has nothing to do with God taking care of you through it all. But you have got to get a hold of His words. You have got to get the right perspective. When a child of God has the right perspective, he may not like it, and it may not be fair. But it is the truth of the Word of God that the taxes, just as the tithe, have always absolutely supported God's system, and it has nothing to do with me surviving, because Philippians 4:19 says that God is going to supply all of my need.

You know what? It is the same way with your job and your family. All three institutions. The church supported by the members of it. The government supported by the members of that people in that country. Your family, it is the same way. Your family and you as a husband and a wife, that is your ministry. You have a ministry in this church, but your first ministry is your family. If you are a husband here, your first ministry is your wife. Your second ministry is your children, or tie them all together, however you want to do it. But the bottom line is simply this: how do you support that ministry? How do you support the fact that you are in this church?

I watched some of you last night be missionaries. I told you time and time again that everybody in this church that is saved, you are on the mission field. Now, some of you never will get that, and it is a tragedy. Some of you, you never get it because you have got so many problems in your own life, you are just like Greg Dixon. He got so focused on what he was doing with the anti-tax movement that he just lost his focus. Sometimes we get so focused on what we are into and what we are doing, we lose our focus. But the bottom line is, if you are saved here this morning, you are a missionary. I watched some of you on your mission field last night. I watched in your devotions. I watched somebody over there, and you were sitting in there talking to them, and I watched you orchestrate your teams that you got people in that maybe were not even on your team, but you shut yourself out so they could play because you realized what I said. Most churches when they have a volleyball league, this is how they take it: "We are going to play volleyball, and we are going to have a great time, and let us get lots of people out to play volleyball, and oh yeah, we are going to try to minister to them in the process." My perspective is the other way. "We are going to have a great ministry. We are going to minister to some people. We are going to meet new people. We are going to try to influence them for God, and oh yeah. Let us try to find out how to play volleyball," because you are not a volleyball player. You are not even team captains. You are missionaries. Every day you go to work, you are a missionary. Every person you meet in your neighborhood, you are a missionary to them. They may be the only thing that stands between—you may be the only thing that stands between them in heaven and hell. You are a missionary, and once you grasp that perspective and understand that perspective, you realize that your job, the job that God has provided for you, the job that we all take for granted, that is the way that you support your ministry. It works on all three systems, all three systems, and taxes may not be fair, but it is the way it is. He says, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's."

Now we have a group of people out there that are called Jehovah's Witnesses, and I am not picking on Jehovah's Witnesses, I am just telling you what is true. I will show you a way how to deal with Jehovah's Witnesses because they will come to your door sooner or later, and I have dealt with them all my life, but you know Jehovah's Witnesses, they do not salute the flag. They have no allegiance to the country. I mean, they have absolutely no allegiance to this country. No flag day, no saluting the flag, no national anthem, no military service, no holidays at all, no 4th of July, no Christmas, no Easter, no birthday, no Thanksgiving. Boy, it has got to be boring being a Jehovah's Witness. They will beat you over the head because of the fact that you have an American flag on your porch. They will beat you over the head because of the fact that you will sing the national anthem, and they are absolutely right. Their position is, "It is all pagan." Well, I agree it is all pagan, but you know what? If you do not follow along with it, then people are going to think you are like them, and they do not get anywhere in life, but here is how you get them. I have asked this before. I said, "Okay, let me ask you that. You do not believe in saluting the flag. You do not believe in government. You do not believe in holidays, Christmas, Easter, birthdays, and all those things. You would not serve in the military at all, would you?" "No." "In other words, you are pretty much as far anti-government as you ever get, right?" "Absolutely." "This government is pagan, right? So therefore, you have no part of it, right? So you will not take anything that it does, absolutely." "Do you pay taxes?" Every one of them pay taxes. Now to me, that is hypocritical. I had a day at one time, and I said, "Well, you are really a hypocrite." "You

know how much of your tax dollars you put in, you pay taxes, you know, 30% of your tax dollars goes to the war, the bullets, the bombs, the napalm, the planes, the tanks, the guns, the bombs, and everything that you need that you do not want to support. Why do you do that? If you were really a follower of your convictions, you would not pay your taxes." You know why he pays taxes? Because he did not want to go to prison. See, it is a conviction, but he is not going to follow all the way through. Hey, if I believed that paying taxes was wrong, then I would go to jail for not paying taxes. If my conviction is right, the day they say you cannot preach the Bible anymore, I will be in prison. You know why? Because I am going to still preach the Bible because that is my dictate from God, and no man can take that from me. If I really believed that, if they really believed that paying taxes was a part of the satanic system, why would you pay that when you will not give allegiance to anything else in it? I will tell you why, because you are not honest with your own convictions. Hypocritical because he still pays his taxes because he does not want to go to jail, but he wants to take a cheap shot at you and me or the country, see? That is the way it works. That is the way it works. You have to know why you believe what you believe.

Now we ought to pay taxes under the Bible principles, and there is no constitution to it. He says, "Well, what about the waste? What about the corruption? What about all of the misuse of tax money?" That is not my problem. My job is to pay it. I already told you, Psalms 9:17, that God judges governments just like He judges individuals. God will bless you for doing what the Word of God says, even if it is corrupt and they use it wrong, and then God is going to hold them accountable with the Great White Throne Judgment for what they did or what they did not do. These are the concepts you have to understand, because people get caught up in it just like the people with Greg Dixon and all of those people that got caught up in those situations, getting God's perspective.

## V. The Transformed Perspective of a Believer

Your position in all this. I think the greatest single thing that I ever taught this church, and many of you are doing variations of this now, is when we talked about the seven things that changed about you the day that you got saved. In my mind, dealing with people for 35 plus years, the number one problem people have today as Christians is that they do not know now that they are saved how they are different than before they were saved. They just go through their life trying to figure out Christianity and all of the things that they have got to deal with. From the government, from every wind of doctrine that blows their way, from the things that people tell them, from the things that maybe their family tells them, and everything impacts them. If you do not understand in your mind, if you do not see yourself from God's perspective, and really I told you, that is what the book of Romans shows you. The whole book is God's perspective of how you and I are to view things.

- In Romans 1, he gave us His perspective on the Gentiles.
- In Romans 2, he gave us His perspective on the nation of Israel.
- In Romans 3, 4, and 5, he gave us His perspective on the law.
- In Romans 6, he gave us perspective on the death of a cross.
- In Romans 7, he gave us His perspective on our flesh.

- In Romans 8, he gave us the perspective of our new glorified body.
- In Romans 9, 10, and 11, he gave us His perspective on the nation of Israel.
- In Romans 12, he gave us a perspective of how we get along with the world.
- Now we are in Romans 13, and we are getting God's perspective on how we are to deal and relate to our government.
- Then we are going to go to Romans 14 and 15, that shows us how we are going to get along with everybody else in the world.

When you get done with the book of Romans, for you and for me, that is why after Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, four Gospels, then the book of Acts, which lays the foundation of the church, and then in Romans is the next book that shows you what our perspective should be as a church and every chapter.

Most of my job as a pastor is basically two things. What I need to always do in my life, and I try to do it every time I can, and it is something I keep before me all the time. I am human just like anybody else, but I never try to forget. I always try to see you not in your problems. Because if you start looking at the problems people have, you are going to get sandbagged. I never look at anybody that comes into that door with problems in their life. Maybe it is marital problems, maybe it is some individual problem, maybe it is something that just to them it is a big deal. I look at it and I say, "We can fix this in no time." But I never look at people, I never look at people and look at them in their situations. I always look at people from the aspect of the victory that God has for them, because I have got to give people hope. If I did not see you the way God sees you and understand the principles and realize that the situation you are in, maybe today, you are simply because you have never gotten a hold of His Word. God could change your whole situation just like that. I am not going to tell you that all your problems will be over tomorrow. I am not going to tell you that there will not be a process you have got to work it through. But when people come in and see me and they sit in my office, one thing I always try to leave them with. Maybe they will not do it, maybe they will not take it, but the one thing I try to leave them with is an exit plan that will give them everything they need to fix their problem. You may come in with no hope, I want you to leave with all the hope that is in that book.

A couple last week came over, and they talked to me, and at the end of the thing they said, "You know what, we have laid out our situation, we have laid out our problem. Is there anything that we can do?" I said, "You know what, that is never the question. There is always something you can do. The question is, will you do what you need to do?" I never see people in their problems. I see people with a victory of God in their life and the finished product that everybody in this room or anybody I ever met could be for God if they would just let God do it.

You know what the second thing I have to do? Get you to see that. It is one thing if I see it, but you have got to see it. You have got to see yourself from God's standpoint. You have got to see what changed about you so you can get God's perspective. Getting to the place where you see yourself as God sees you from His perspective. Once you do that, then you will see in time everything from God's perspective. You will see that the fact that what it talks about when it says that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, old things are passed away, all things become new.

I believe this: the single greatest thing I will ever give you about working with people, the single greatest piece of advice I will ever give you no matter where you are at in your life. Maybe you are married this morning, maybe your own personal life, maybe your own struggles with something. The greatest piece of information and advice I can ever give you that I use as a basis for everything I do is simply this: you cannot solve—listen to me now—you cannot solve whatever problem, listen to me, whatever problems you may have in your life, you cannot solve those problems with the same thinking that got you into those problems. You have to see yourself as a different person. You have to see yourself from that standpoint.

This is why so many, and you have heard me say this before, I think the greatest, two of the great programs that help men and women are Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. I am not fighting at all. I have sent people into those. I have been through those programs myself so I would have an understanding what I am talking about because I am like everybody else. I told myself through the same accountability, I do not want to get up here and talk about it if I have not been through it myself. I went through my AA program. I went through my NA program. I never drank or I had never taken drugs. I went through it because of the fact that I wanted to learn how those systems worked so I could better help people that were in them. I only found one fatal flaw, but it is a fatal flaw. That fatal flaw is simply this: both Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, they both follow this same reasoning: "You are always going to be an alcoholic. You are always going to be a drug addict." You may have been clean or not had any booze for 30 years, but you get up at every meeting and you say, "I am a recovering alcoholic," or "I am an alcoholic," or "I am a drug abuser." You never in those organizations get past the point, and I understand why they do it. They want to keep it before them so they do not fall off the wagon. So it is a continual lifestyle of admitting every day, "I am a drunk, I am this, I am a dope addict, I am this," and thereby by dealing with it every day, keeping from it.

I have got a better solution than that because this is where I have the problem, because the Bible says if you are a drunk this morning or you are a drug abuser this morning and you get on your knees and trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are a new creature in Christ Jesus, old things are passed away, all things become new. You go down on your knees as a drunk, and you stand up as a new creature. You go down on your knees as a drug addict, and you stand up as a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are passed away. That is the Bible principles, and that is what you have to follow and understand. You cannot solve problems in your life by the same thinking that caused those problems. You have to get to the place where you see yourself.

I deal with a lot of people, and I see a lot of people all their lives have been beat up by other people. I have known people that their parents told them they were no good, their friends told them they are no good, and maybe they could not keep up on an athletic par or they could not keep up on an academic par, or maybe they just could not grasp things the way their father wanted them to do it or their mother wanted to do them. So all of their life they heard how stupid they were. All of their life they heard how they were never going to amount to anything. All of their life they have heard how they were worthless, that they are never going to go anything in life, and you know what? You hear that eight or nine or ten or twelve years, and you know what happens? You believe that, and so you become an adult, and you think that you are worthless.

You think that you cannot really do anything. So when you get saved, even though you are not that person anymore, you still have those old thinking patterns that way, and that is what you have to change. You have to see that no matter what struggles you were before you got saved, when you got saved, now you have the Holy Spirit of God that you can do everything in your life. Now you have the Holy Spirit of God that you can do whatever God wants you to do. It all comes about the path to seeing yourself differently, and getting to the point where you think about things differently is simply understanding the concepts to see who you are in Christ.

I am telling you, this is what it leads to of getting into the book of Romans, understanding everything about the way God sees it. I am not just talking about the government. I am not just talking about the things out there that we have to face. It starts with you seeing who you are first. If I can get you to understand who you are in Christ Jesus and see the value that you have to God and get that perspective in your life first, then I can get you to the point where you can just about do anything for God because you will have the perspective.

You know those seven things that I would talk about? It talks about how that your soul changed the day you got saved. It talks about how that your affections changed the day you got saved. It talks about how your citizenship changed the day you got saved. It talks about now how that you are seated in heavenly places, how that changed. It talks about your attitude changing. It talks about your job changing. Now you are an ambassador to Christ. Then it talks about your conversation changing. Conversation in your King James Bible is lifestyle because the King James translators knew that no matter what anybody says, you live or you talk what you really walk. It is an incredible thing. But the thing you have got to realize that all these things are inward. All these things are inward. My job in teaching you the Bible principles and bringing you through the book of Romans or the degree that we have come through and giving you everything that you need to know is to help you form the right perspectives. You begin to come through those things, and you begin to see that all of these things are inward. Each one of these things are forming a new you. Each one of these things will form a new perspective.

Most of God's people, bless their hearts, they go through their whole lives, and they never seen or do they understand the great truths. These seven inward changes will provide seven outward changes because whatever you change inwardly will affect what you do outwardly. If you do not get the Bible principles inwardly, you know what is going to happen? Outwardly you are going to become a modern tax movement. You are going to become one of the guys that you get off the track with whatever it is that is not right about the Bible. You get the right things inwardly, and it will produce the right things outwardly. This is my goal for every one of you. This is what I want more than anything else in life because this is where the real aspect of ministry comes in. I want you to know everything about the Bible. I want you to know every circumstance and situation. I watched you last night, and I watched some of you out there working with your people, opening up your Bibles. I watched you before the game, during the game, and after the game. I watched over at the Jason's Deli. I watched you be on the mission field and talking with people, and that is why you need to understand these great principles of how people need to understand all the aspects. But you have to understand them first. When these seven things are realized in your life inwardly, they produce seven changes outwardly, and now you are ready to be used of God. Hey,

whatever you are on the outside, good or bad, will just be in direct reference to what you are on the inside. When you outwardly change, when you are inwardly changed, then the seven things outwardly.

You know what the first thing that changes is exactly what we are talking about today?

- Your perspective changes.

Now you view things, life, your husband, your wife, your family, your history, your job, your government, the world you live in, your friends, the places you go, the things that you do, the things that you invest your time in, the thing that you want and help important. Now your whole value system changes. You know how you see this? I have people ask me this all the time. I have people that come over and they will talk with me or we will talk about things in general, and they are working with people, especially with people at work. They will say to me this, "You know, I got this person I work with at work, and she or he laid this thing out, and I tried to answer that thing, and they said to me, 'You know what, how does anybody ever believe that? How does somebody just so blindly believe that, that they actually think that way?'" I always tell them, "Hey, hey, hey, wait a minute. You have something that they do not have. You have a perspective on life because you understand the Bible. They have no perspective on life. They have no Bible." You know how people get weird, cockeyed ideas about life? People, relationships, marriage, friends, family, husband's wife, the whole nine yards, it is because they have no true perspective. So when they come in with you, they are going to have some of the weirdest, goofiest things you ever saw in your life. You are going to scratch your head and say, "Why cannot they understand that the way I do?" Because they do not have your perspective. That is why. Because my point is this, when you get these seven things inwardly, they will change your outward seven. The first thing that changes, you do not look at things the same way anymore. You do not look at things the same way anymore. Some of you have been saved for just a short time, a couple of months. You know what? It is already so evident that you do not look at the things now the way you did because your perspective changes. That is not all.

- Your purpose changes.

Once those seven things work into your life inwardly, they step out and they change your life outwardly. Your purpose changes. Now you recognize that God has a job for you. You have realized God's will inwardly, and now God's plan is realized outwardly. Your whole life now is centered around a new purpose. You know, do you know why I am the way I am? A lot of people do not like the way I am. But you know the way I am in a basic fundamental deal? 35 plus years ago, I got saved. You know what my problem is? I have never gotten over it. I have never gotten over it. Some of you have been saved, and you have gotten over it. If there is anything I have learned in life that people who have gotten saved and gotten over it do not like people who have gotten saved and have not gotten over it. But I do not know what to tell you. I am not going to get over it just to make you happy. In fact, somebody said, "Well, I will pray for you." Pray for me that I get worse. I hope I never get over it. You know why? Because in my life, I cannot speak for you. This is my own personal testimony. I am not perfect. I have made a lot of dumb bozo things in life. But I was changed the day I got saved. I am telling you, something is

different now for me. I have just never gotten over it. My perception is different. My purpose is different. Yet you know me, I am the funnest guy to be with in life. I laugh. We tell jokes. We have fun. We do fun things. We do goofy things. We get into some incredible things that we laugh and we have fun. I am the funnest guy you will ever hang out with. But my purpose is different. My purpose is different. Because I realize just when I look at the government and I look at the secular government and I see a corrupt system and I see a system that is completely upside down and yet I see God taking that system and using it as His minister for my good to bring about the second coming of Christ. I see the church on the other spectrum who is God's church and God using them in a good sense to bring about the second coming of Christ. Then I realize that my purpose, no matter what I do, the good times that I have, whether it is at a hockey game, whether it is at a football game, whether it is watching you race, whether it is going out and watching somebody do this or coming to your kid's birthday or playing volleyball last night, I realize that my purpose now is not what I am doing but my missionary endeavor within what I am doing. Some of you are getting it. Some of you are getting it. Some of you are getting it. I watched it last night. I was moved last night. You know, a pastor puts a lot of heart, sweat, and tears into what he does. A good pastor anyhow, and I try to endeavor to do that. I try to invest in people's lives, and there is a lot of crap that goes on in the ministry, and it is just part of the detail. But you know what overrides all of that? Seeing in your life, God make the difference. Seeing in your life, you finally grasping the principles because you understand what changed inwardly, and now I see it changing outwardly.

- Your perspective changes, your purpose changes, and your passion changes.

Simply put, the mission is now crystal clear in your life. Nothing or no one gets in your way. Everything within life is now there for you to accomplish the mission that God has called you to do and God has saved you for. But first, simply put, you begin to love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates, and you just generally want to understand, and you have got a crystal clear clarity now. You know, I looked for years and years and years, and I have never been much a photographer. But I used to, somebody gave me a camera years ago, and it was one of the first cameras that, you know, usually you had to manual focus it. But this one was the first one that had the instant focus. You just push the button halfway down all the way. It took me a while to figure it out. I was taking pictures of my hand and everything, and I could not agree. But once I got it down, it was the neatest thing I ever saw in my life. I could put a picture, look at something, and you would be out of focus, and I just touch that button, and zip, you would come right into focus. Not quickly, put it out of focus again. I am just kidding. You would snap right into focus. That was a neat thing, and I thought to myself years later, you know, I have to doctor what the Bible does. When you come in here, for many of you, life is out of focus. Your marriage is out of focus. Your own personal walk with God is out of focus. What the Bible does for you is give you an instant focus. It is just like pushing a button halfway down, and suddenly in just a short time of your life, zip, everything comes into focus, and you now see what God wants you to do clearly. Your passion is given to that. We only have so much energy to give to God, only have so much passion we can give to God. Many of us, many times, spend our passion every place else but where it needs to be. Our passion changes.

- Then our patience changes, does it not?

Now you understand that everything is in God's timing. I will be the first to tell you, and some of you know me, have been around with me for a long time. I used to be very impatient. The older I have gotten in the Lord, and the more I have done things, and the more I have seen God and got to know God and the way He does things, the less in a hurry I am. I realized that everything works in God's timing. I realized that God is going to work it out. It just takes time sometimes. I think some of the problems that some of God's people have in working with people is not patient enough with them. You know that you have to learn to wait on God. Dealing with people, I will be honest with you, dealing with people takes incredible patience. There are some people who just snap right into it, and boy, they are great. Other people, it takes a while. So many times we get impatient that we think, "Well, if you do not do it quicker than this, then I am not going to work with you anymore," or "You are no good," or "You know that." Let me tell you something, that is just simply not true. You know how you get patience in dealing with people? I will tell you, the greatest way you get patience in dealing with people. You get patience in dealing with people by understanding how much patience God has dealing with you. That is how you do it. Every time I would catch myself getting impatient with somebody, God would tap me on His shoulder, and He would say, "You know what, I put up with you for a lot longer than that. Now why cannot you put up with them?" See, you learn by that. It is like forgiveness. How in the world, when you understand how God forgave you, do you not forgive anybody? It is just part of the process of your patience changes. I know the Bible says in the book of James, "the trying of your faith worketh patience." I understand that. But you know what the reality of that passage is, do you not? It means that when you get into a bad situation, God has patience with you. Once you come through it, then you realize and never forget when you work with people, you have got to have patience with them. These are the things that change outwardly. They give you the right perspective.

- The next thing that changes is your inner man.

Now you know who you are. Now unlike all of your past life, what people say or think about you does not really matter. You know where you are at with God, and nothing is ever going to shake that. You are going to realize that people will always have their opinion of you, just like they do with me, and it will be good or it will be bad. Many times we allow our day to be influenced by what people think of us. Let me give you a bit of advice. If you are doing what God wants you to do, and you are right with God, and you are carrying out what God has called you to do, the only opinion you need to worry about in life is His opinion of you. Because opinions will make you or break you. I have seen people come in, and one person would say something the wrong way, and it would just deflate that person. When you get the inward things, the outward things, and the thing outwardly that shows is the fact that you inwardly now know who you are in Christ, and people's opinion, it does not matter. I have learned anything over the years, just the fact that what people think about me does not change with what God does with me. He still blesses me. He still gives me people saved. I still have a church. I still have the Bible. I still have all the blessings that go along with it. I am telling you something. In your life, it is the exact same way. It does not happen until you get it inwardly and then outwardly.

- You know what happens when you get the inward man? Then the outward man changes.

Now here it comes. Now you have the confidence to do what you need to do. Confidence is an incredible thing and a very important thing. You have to realize that there has to be a boldness in what you do. I have watched some of you guys down at the mission. I have watched William. I have watched you. I have watched some of you gals come to the place where, when you came in and the first time you did things, you did good. You had the courage to get up and do it. But you know what you lacked? You lacked confidence. Because confidence is the thing that puts aside the fear of doing not right or not whatever and just let you focus on doing what God wants you to do. Confidence is an incredible thing. I watched William last night. He is the captain of my team that I am on. I watched William, and I watched him. William is a great kid. You do not have to look a long time to find somebody with a better heart than William. I know when William is going to do the job, it is going to get done. But when William first came in, he was kind of rambling what he said. He knew what he wanted to say, and he had a heart as pure as gold. But he was not always able to put his thoughts in a chainable order that he went to. But you know what William has got? He has got confidence now. He has got confidence. I watched him last night, and he walked. I watch how a guy handles himself. If you are speaking to somebody and you are looking down, you have your hands in your pockets, and you are looking around, and you cannot eyeball contact with him, that is a lack of confidence. But I watched him last night step into that arena, man. I know what that feeling—he stepped right into it, man. He just laid that thing out, and he walked that thing through, and he looked him in the eye when he talked to him. I watched you the last time you gave your testimony. I cannot wait to hear you tonight preach because I know what it will be. Well, I am really setting you up. You screw up tonight, you are in trouble. You had a confidence, Zach. You had a confidence. I watched you the last time you preached. Your confidence, up there with them kids teaching the Word of God, because it draws it out of you. You get a confidence level about you that you can, you stand up there, and it is not like I am telling you this, I hope you like it. It is, "I am telling you this because it is true, and I do not really care if you like it or not." You do not say that, but you say that by your confidence. It comes because of the inward change, knowing who you are.

- Your perspective changes, your purpose changes, your passion changes, your patience changes, the inner man changes, the outer man changes.

It is all because the end of man has changed. Now the longer you live, the longer you walk with God, the greater two concepts will burn into your soul. It will drive you, it will keep you, it will make you, it will keep your heart one with His heart, and that is simply you will always now understand your end as a man or a woman was changed, and you will never forget what God saved you from. You will never forget what God saved you from, and you will never forget the price that God paid for you to have it.

You know, we always have, we have all seen spoiled children, and it is very obvious that when there is a spoiled child, sometimes you see the results when they are little kids, sometimes you see the results when they grow up, but spoiled children are always the same. Life centers around them. They are always the first one to complain when they do not get their way. They are always thinking that they are the most important thing in it, and that they do not really care about

anybody else's feelings in it. It is basically what they want. You know what? Spoiled Christians are the same way. Spoiled Christians come to this place, and every church has them. We have very few of them, but every church has them. Spoiled Christians come from the fact that we do not—the inward things have not changed, so the outward things have not changed, so we go through our whole life not ever understanding the price that was paid for your salvation. When you realize what God has saved you from, then you will realize the second great thing, and that is your life is now in whatever you do. Wherever you go, your life will affect somebody else either negative or positive for their eternity. You see, once you realize how it affected your end, every person you look at, you realize, is also going to have an end. Romans 14:7 says, "No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." There is always somebody watching our lives. They watch everything that we do. You know what? There is hardly any place you can go today that there is not a security camera watching what you are doing. I do not know what this thing is up here. But you know what? Take that same concept and put it in your life at work, whatever you do in your life, wherever you go, and the people you are with, you will have a thousand little cameras watching you, especially if they know you are a Christian, because they have heard you are a Christian, and they heard that because you got saved, the end of man has changed in your life, and you are going to heaven, and they want to see if it is real. That is how this thing works. When you get the seven things inwardly that we put so much emphasis on around here, these seven things change outwardly, and your life will never be the same.

This is why what the book of Romans does. You and I only have so much energy for God and only so much time to give. That is why everything in Romans from the aspect of Romans 13 of viewing our government, and now you understand why we pay taxes. When somebody asks you down the line, and you need to put those notes in your Bible at some point, at least put them in your notebook, did you get it condensed down at some point in time? Somebody is going to ask you, and now you need to know. You see, Romans 13 is just as important as Romans 14 and 15 because we live in this world. The thing that you do not want to happen to you is what happened to so many other people: they get caught up in some goofy movement, something that has nothing to do with God or the Word of God in any way, shape, or form simply because we did not have the right perspective, in this case about our government, because you are going to hear everything in the world out there.

My goal for you is in the course of my time, on my shift, on my watch, before somebody else takes this thing over. My job is to leave behind me men and women who understand totally every perspective of what life on planet Earth is all about. That you will never get caught, that this church after I am gone will never run the risk of getting caught into a scenario with somebody like Johnny Todd coming in, somebody like a Greg Dixon, somebody that wants to steer this church off course the wrong way, that there will be men and women in this church that know that Bible and know what it means and know what it says because the foundation of this church has to be the Bible doctrine, and the Bible doctrine is simply going to be the perspective that we have. We are going to have God's perspective from God's book, or we are going to have a Christian perspective from everybody else's opinion. This church has to be based on the Word of God, and it is only based on the Word of God as your individual lives are based on the Word of God, and that is what we have to do.

Father, we do thank you today, and we thank you for the time that we spend in your Word. Lord, there is so much in the book of Romans and so many different perspectives that we need to have, but help us see today, Father, that this was not just a letter, a message today about paying taxes. There was a message today about having the perspective of why we do what we do in the world that we live in, going to the Bible to find out God's viewpoint, and then coming to the place that we understand that the only thing that is going to preserve us as individuals and the only thing that is going to preserve us as a church is getting your perspective, helping these men and women as they come in and we get to work with them and they get a Bible and they fall in love with God and they want to do what is right, helping them understand what changed about them inwardly first and then let the Holy Spirit of God change outwardly about them what needed to be changed. Thank you, Father. We love you. Thank you for those that have come out today, and we pray, Father, you will give them a safe trip home. Please take care of our kids down in Warrensburg and take care of them and bring them home safe and bless the mission tonight and the church history class and all that we have got to do this week. Thank you for last night and our volleyball, and, Lord, most of all, thank you for what you showed me last night, these young men and these young ladies out there as missionaries, reaching out, touching people's lives. Lord, the change that has not only taken place inwardly but has taken place outwardly. Father, we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask of. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. Be careful going home today. See you tonight.