

THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Romans 13:1-14

Key Verse: 13:14

1. Read verses 1-2. What should be the Christian's attitude toward the government under which he lives? Why? What do you know about the government under which the Romans lived?
2. Why did God institute governments? Why is it wrong to rebel against the governing authorities? Does this apply to oppressive, pagan governments or only to just and moral governments? (1Pe 2:13-18)
3. Read verses 3-5. Generally speaking, who are the ones who are fearful of rulers? How can we be free of such fear? Are there limits to obedience to a government? (Ac 5:29) Did Paul obey laws which forbade worshiping God or required emperor worship? Why didn't Paul mention this?
4. What does verse 4 teach about the morality of using force to maintain order? What are the 2 reasons Paul gives for submitting to governing authorities? (5)
5. Read verses 6-7. Why should Christians pay taxes? What other responsibilities do we have toward those in authority? Why? (Mt 22:21) What guidance do verses 1-7 give to Christians living under totalitarian regimes? What was Jesus' example?
6. Read verses 8-10. What is the one outstanding debt which Christians should permit? Why? Why pay off the others? How does loving one's fellowman fulfill the Law?
7. Read verses 11-14. What must we understand about the present time? What does it mean that the night is nearly over and the day has almost come? What must we do? (12b) What are the deeds of darkness? Why must we put on the armor of light?
8. How does this passage reflect Jesus' own life? How can we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ?