

Week 14

LIII. Introduction

- A. Homework
- B. Last Week's Budget Principle
 - 1. Plan for retirement?
 - 2. Retirement is a LOW priority with God
 - 3. It is an opportunity to work at something different not just to take our ease
 - 4. Plan by...
 - a. Saving ~15% of your gross salary NOW
 - b. Determine how much you are going to need to live
 - c. Review where your income will come from
 - d. Determine what levers to pull to provide sufficient income...save more, work longer, etc.
- C. Last Week's Biblical Principle
 - 1. God is Sovereign over everything
 - 2. He is not surprised by anything
 - 3. We can rest that in His care and loving kindness to mold us and bring us to completion
 - 4. This goes for our money and possessions as well

LIV. Biblical Principle – God's purpose in government

- A. What is the purpose of government?
 - 1. There are probably as many answers to this as there are people
 - 2. Answers.com says...

“The purpose of government is to provide a system in which individuals give a portion of their freedom in order to pursue needs and wants without the fears that are inherent in a state of anarchy...Therefore, at its most basic level, **the purpose of government is to protect the people from threats**, both within and without.”^[2]
 - 3. The US Founding Father's said...
 - a. US Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that

they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men**, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,”

b. US Constitution

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, **establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty** to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

4. A libertarian view says...

“The purpose of government is to defend its constituents against aggression. Period. ... Freedom is the ability to exercise one's will in the absence of coercion. Therefore, freedom is impossible once government is allowed to perform any function other than defense.”^[3]

5. An Islamist view says...

“The purpose of political authority is to establish the religion of God in its entirety and make his word supreme”^[4]

B. What is God’s purpose in government?

1. One of the most succinctly put reasons is presented by Paul in Romans 13:1-5

*“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for **it is a minister of God to you for good**. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for **it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil**. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake.”*

2. God establishes governments, all governments, to accomplish 3 things

- a. Restrain Evil...
 - i. by causing “terror” so people do not behave as badly as they might (v2)
 - ii. be a deterrent to people’s evil
 - b. Promote Good...(v 3-4a)
 - i. By rewarding those who do good...
Daniel (Daniel 2:46-48; 6:28) and Joseph (Genesis 41:39-45)
 - ii. By protecting us...
Paul (Acts 19:37-39; 21:30-35)
 - iii. Allowing us to live peacefully so that the gospel may go out...
1 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - iv. And in a theocracy...Care for those who absolutely can’t care for themselves...
The fatherless, the widow and the alien (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)
 - c. Perform Justice / Punish the evil doer
 - i. Both internally and externally
 - ii. God uses governments to bring judgment on other nations (Habakkuk 1)
 - iii. God uses governments to bring judgment on it’s own people (vs 4b)
 - iv. There are guidelines for how this punishment is to be meted out but that is for another lesson
- C. What is our response to government
- 1. Even though God has established every government they are still under the power of Satan who is the ruler of this world (1 John 5:19; Luke 4:5-6; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
 - 2. Even though that is the case we as believers have specific responsibilities to government authority
 - 3. We should be exemplary citizens except where we might be commanded to sin
 - 4. Paul states in Romans 13:1, 6-7
“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ... For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting

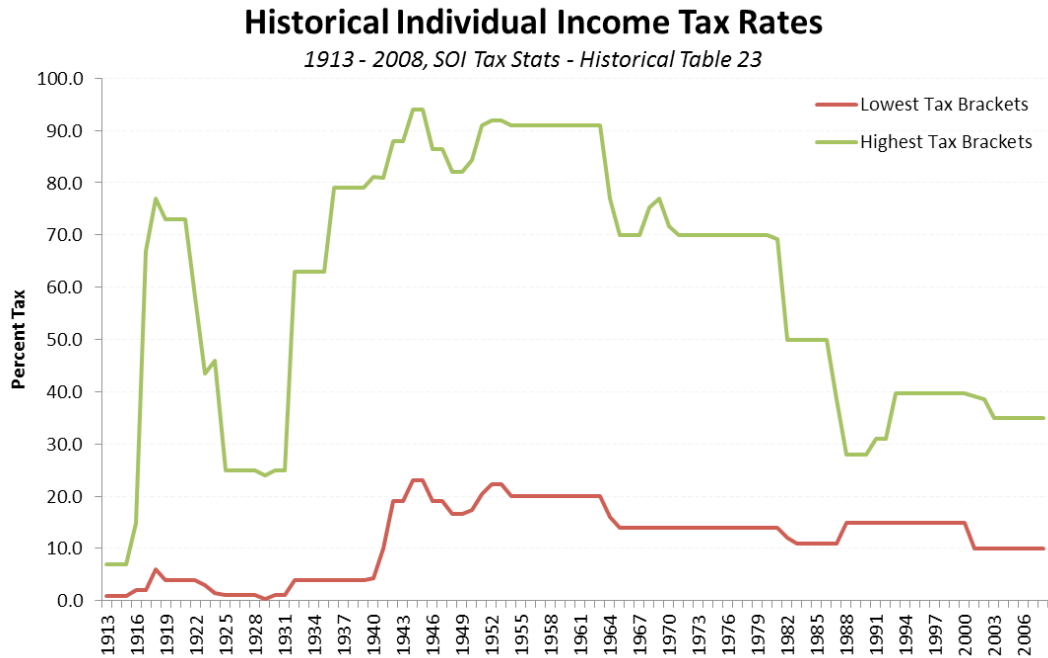
themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

5. So here are a few ways we are to respond
 - a. We are to obey and submit to them (1 Peter 2:13-14)
 - b. We are to pay our taxes (v6)
 - c. We are to respect them (v7)
 - d. We are to honor them (1 Peter 2:17)
 - e. Pray for them (1 Timothy 2:2)
 - f. Live at peace (Romans 12:18)

LV. Budgeting Principle – Our Response to Government

- A. What is Government’s Effect on our finances as it fulfills its responsibilities?
 1. How governments choose to implement the 3 responsibilities will have an effect on our finances and economic situation
 2. Depending on the economic approach of the government...free market, socialist, communist, etc... it will have direct effect on our finances both personally and through the broader economy
 3. Government may have direct effect on what you can or can’t own or count as “your” possession
 4. Tax structure and how much you have to pay to support the government’s program

5. Taxes will change with time



B. How are we to respond in the face of these things?

1. Remember that God is sovereign and behave as such
2. Follow the Biblical Principles for our resources that we have been covering and reviewing each week
3. Relax in the fact that what is going on economically both personally and globally is under God's control and He will continue to care for us (Hebrews 13:5-6)

LVI. The Homework

A. Memory Verses

1. Romans 13:1 *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."*
2. Psalms 103:19 *"The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all."*
3. Hebrews 9:27 *"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,"*

4. ^{1 Timothy 6:17} *“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”*
5. ^{1 Timothy 6:8} *“If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”*
6. ^{Acts 20:35b} *“..He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*
7. ^{1 Timothy 5:8} *“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*
8. ^{Colossians 3:23} *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men”*
9. ^{Psalms 37:21} *“The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.”*
10. ^{Proverbs 21:20} *“There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.”*
11. ^{Titus 2:12} *“..instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,”*
12. ^{Matthew 6:21} *“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
13. ^{Hebrews 13:5} *“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,’”*
14. ^{Psalms 24:1} *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”*

B. Question and Answer Time

References

1. Unless otherwise indicated all scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), 1995
2. http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_purpose_of_a_government
3. <http://www.dailypaul.com/131683/the-three-ps-things-government-cannot-and-should-not-do>
4. <http://islamliveforit.blogspot.com/2011/04/purpose-of-government-in-islam.html>
5. **John MacArthur**, *Why Government Can’t Save You: An Alternative to Political Activism* (Nashville, TN: Word, 2000)