

# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

**Romans 13** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Romans 13**

### **Romans 13:1**

Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

† Paul instructs submission to governing authorities. This would have been shocking, since Rome was often hostile to Christians. Yet God establishes authority to maintain order.

† Josephus (Antiquities 18.1.1) wrote that Rome's rule over Judea was seen as divinely permitted, even if resented. Paul affirms God's sovereignty over rulers.

### **Romans 13:2**

Therefore the one who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

† To resist lawful authority is to resist God's ordinance. In Paul's context, rebellion against Rome often led to death.

† The Jewish revolt of AD 66-70 fulfilled Paul's warning. Josephus records that resistance to Rome brought severe judgment and destruction.

### **Romans 13:3-4**

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 servant 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 servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

† Authorities serve as instruments of God's justice. Rome bore the sword to punish lawlessness.

† Tacitus (Histories 4.74) described Roman justice as harsh but effective in restraining disorder. Paul calls Christians to peaceable conduct.

### **Romans 13:5**

Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience.

† Submission is not merely pragmatic, to avoid wrath, but rooted in conscience before God.

### **Romans 13:6-7**

For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Pay to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; respect to whom respect; honor to whom honor.

† Paying taxes is framed as obedience to God. Christians were not to join Jewish tax revolts.

† The Mishnah (Nedarim 3:4) records Jewish resistance to Roman taxes. Paul instead urges submission.

### **Romans 13:8**

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law.

† The only debt believers should carry is love. Love fulfills the Law.

† Jesus said the Law hangs on love of God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). Paul applies this covenant truth.

### **Romans 13:9**

For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

† Paul cites the commandments, showing they are all summed up in love. The Law's purpose is fulfilled in Christ through love.

### **Romans 13:10**

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.

† Love, not Torah observance, is the true covenant fulfillment.

### **Romans 13:11**

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed.

† Paul stresses urgency. Salvation was near in their generation. This points to the approaching fulfillment in AD 70.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 9.26) urged vigilance, awaiting God's visitation. Paul affirms that the time had come.

### **Romans 13:12**

The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

† The night of the old covenant was passing. The day of Christ's fulfilled kingdom was near. Believers must live as children of light.

### **Romans 13:13**

Let's behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy.

† Conduct must reflect covenant light. Paul warns against indulgence and division that marked the old order.

### **Romans 13:14**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

† To put on Christ is to live fully in His covenant life. The flesh is denied; Christ is embraced.

## How it applies to us today

† God ordains governing authorities. Our duty is respectful submission, unless obedience to them contradicts obedience to God.

† Love fulfills the Law. Our calling is to live in Christlike love, not legalistic obligation.

† The urgency of Paul's generation reminds us to live watchfully, knowing Christ has fulfilled His promises and His kingdom is present.

† Putting on Christ is the essence of Christian life. He is our light, our armor, and our covenant identity.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.1.1 – Roman rule over Judea seen as divinely permitted

† Josephus, Wars 2.17.2 – Revolt against Rome brings destruction

† Tacitus, Histories 4.74 – Roman justice restraining disorder

† Mishnah, Nedarim 3:4 – Jewish resistance to taxes

† Matthew 22:37-40 – Love as fulfillment of the Law

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 9.26 – Vigilance for God's visitation

[Share on Facebook](#)

### Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

---

**You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.**