

## **Selected Church Fathers**

“I applied my mind to understanding what I was hearing: namely, that free will was the reason why we commit evil, and your righteous judgment the reason why we suffer it: but I could not understand it as it was. Therefore as I endeavored to raise my mental sight from the depths, I was drawn down again: and often as I tried, I was drawn down again and again. What raised me up towards your light was the fact that I knew that I had a will just as much as I knew I was alive. Thus, when I willed or did not will something, I was wholly certain that it was I and no one else who was willing it or not willing it: and I was now on the point of perceiving that therein lay the reason for my own sin. As for the evil I did against my will, I saw that I was suffering it rather than committing it, and adjudged it not so much my guilt as my punishment; conceiving of you as being just, I was swift to acknowledge that I was not being punished unjustly. But once again, I said: who made me? Was it not my God, and is he not only good, but the Good itself? What, then, is the origin of my willing bad deeds and not willing good ones—why I should justly pay the penalty for my deeds? Who was it that set and planted this bitter plant in me, seeing as I came into being entirely from my God, the supreme Sweetness? If the Devil is responsible, what is his origin? But if the Devil himself changed by his perverse will from being a good angel to being the Devil, what is the origin of the evil will by which he became the Devil, seeing as he was made wholly an angel by the supreme good Creator? These anxious thoughts dragged me down and choked me again and again, but I was never brought to that abyss of error in which no one confesses you, of thinking that you suffer evil rather than man commits it.”

~ **Augustine (354-430)**

**Confessions (7.3.5)**

# Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

## Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Revelation 5:1-10

Song #233 ~ Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46:1-11

Song #48 ~ O God, My Joy

Scripture Reading: Psalm 47:1-9

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 13:3-4

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #196 ~ His Robes for Mine

Isaiah 33:6

And He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Scripture memory for October ~ Psalm 1:3

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## Text: Romans 13:3-4

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

### Introduction:

Generally, God has ordained government to punish evil and reward good. Therefore, Christians must obey their governmental authorities except when the government mandates disobedience to God (Acts 4:17-20).

One common misunderstanding is that Christians only need to obey the government when the government is promoting good and suppressing evil. Besides the obvious problem—promoting anarchy—this option does not fit the immediate context. Twice in verse 4, Paul says that the government is the “minister of God”. In verse 1, Paul says that “there is no authority except from God”. Paul assumes that every government is ultimately under the hand of God.

- I) Present yourself as a sacrifice by submitting to your authorities (v. 1-7).
  - A. When you submit to your governmental authorities, there is no need to fear (v. 3-4).

1. Because God set up governmental authorities to reward the good and punish the evil (v. 3).

- i. You should expect praise from governmental authorities for doing good (v. 3).
  - ii. You should expect punishment for doing evil (v. 3). In fact, the government bears the sword for this very purpose (v. 4).

**Objection:** What happens when the governmental authorities punish the righteous?

- i. There is no need to fear because the government can only harm your physical body (cf. Ps. 118:6; Rom. 8:38-39; Heb. 11:36-40).
    - ii. We must remember that God Himself set up Cyrus and Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Israel (Is. 44:28, 45:1-2; Jer. 21:10).
    - iii. Paul often was personally mistreated at the hands of government (cf. Acts 16:22-26, 37; 2 Cor. 11:24-25, 32-33); even Christ Himself was crucified by godless men (Acts 2:23; 1 Cor. 2:7-8).

2. All governmental authorities are under the sovereign control of God (v. 4).

- i. The government is called the “minister” or servant of God which means that it cannot do anything without God’s permission (cf. Job 1:8-12).