

URGENT

CIRCA 1st century
CIRCA ROME



R o m a n s

Rom. 13:1-7 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

First: the directive

Second: the rationale

Then in verse 5: he summarizes and repeats

Then in verse 6: he gives a practical application

And in verse 7: he gives a general principle that applies here and in many other circumstances

Rom. 13:1-7 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The Principle

The providential rule of God over everything

The Pattern

Submission to them (government) as
evidence of submission to him

The Priority

The Lordship of Jesus trumps all other human
relationships

Principle: The providential rule of God over everything

1Tim. 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Is. 45:1 “This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him.

John 19:10-11 “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

Rom. 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.

**Prov. 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of Wisdom"**

**Pattern: Submission to them
(government) as evidence of submission
to him**

**Priority: The Lordship of Jesus
trumps all other human
relationships**

Acts 4:18-20 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Ex. 1:17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

Dan. 3:13-18 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” They replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

How do we live the Lordship of Jesus in a world of competing loyalties?

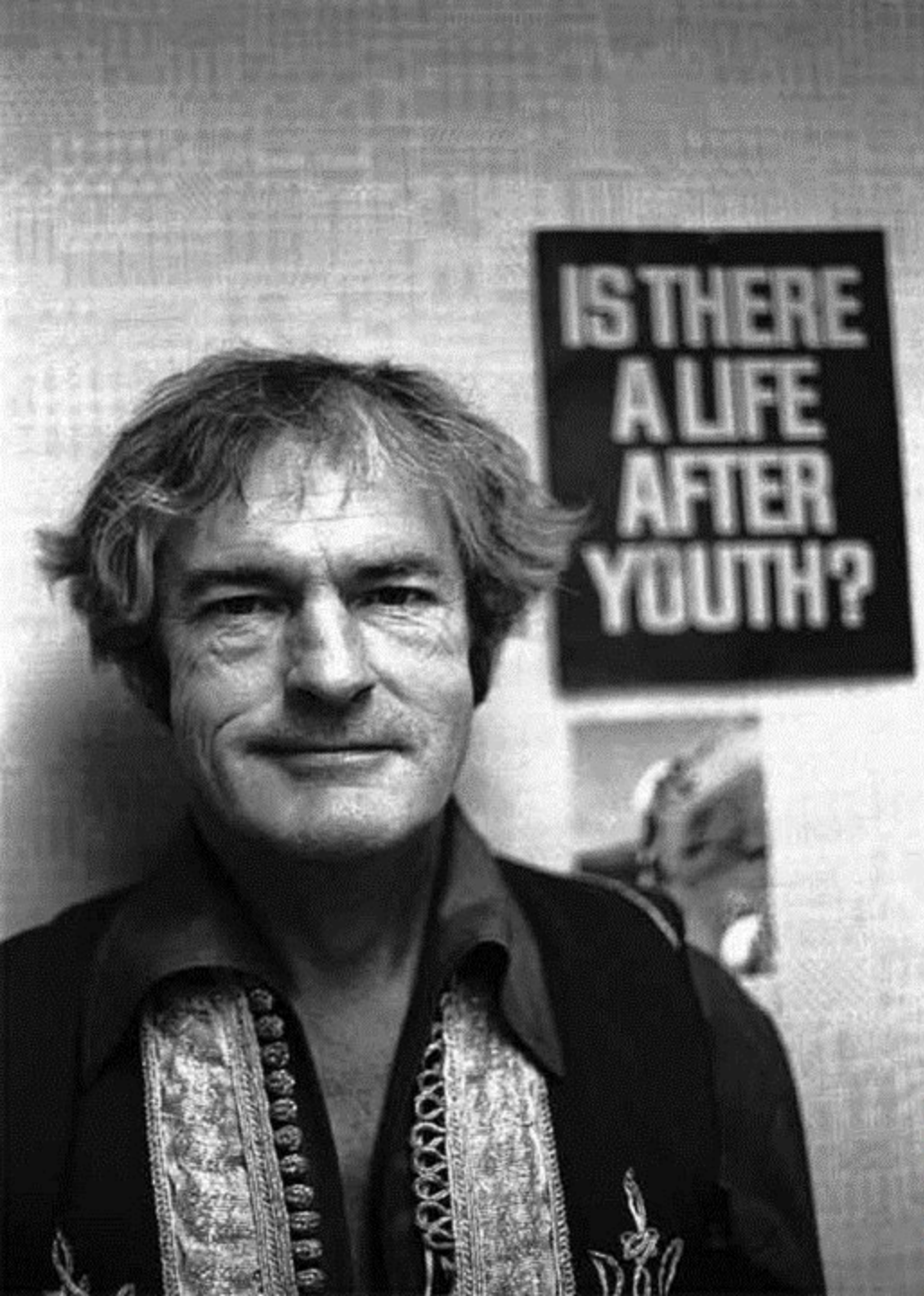
***"I will obey the orders of the officers
appointed over me, according to the
regulations and Code of Military Justice."***

"The God we serve is able to rescue us, but even if he does not...we will not dishonor him."

1. Paul was not naive

2. "Submit" is a different word than "Obey"

3. Authority: the real issue



"Think for
yourself and
question
authority“

~Timothy Leary

**Psa. 100:3 Know that the LORD
is God. It is he who made us, and
we are his; we are his people, the
sheep of his pasture.**