

Awake to Righteousness Bible Study Volume II
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Week 6
Clothe Yourself with Jesus

I. When you remember who you are, you respect the law of the land

Rom 13:1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Rom 13:2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

Rom 13:3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you.

Rom 13:4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

Rom 13:5 So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

Rom 13:6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do.

Rom 13:7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Verse 2: The word “punished” comes from the Greek word "KRIMA."

This word was translated "judgment" twelve times, "damnation" seven times, "condemnation" five times, "be condemned" once, "judgments" once, "go to law" once, and "avenged" once. It means "judgment"; i.e. condemnation of wrong, the decision (whether severe or mild) which one passes on the faults of others...in a forensic sense, "the sentence of a judge" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon).

In this case, this is not speaking of the eternal damnation or judgment of God. This is saying that if people resist the power of government, they will come under the judgment of that government. (Andrew Wommack)

Verse 4: The governing authorities and the law of the land were instituted by God for our good. It is to protect the innocent from the wrongdoer. The law is not necessary for those who know they are righteous, and rely upon Jesus, because the fruit of the Spirit is operating in their life. But for those who do not know, or do not believe they are righteous through Jesus, the law restrains them. If God did not ordain governing officials, then our world would be unrestrained and chaotic because without Jesus, the Bible says the heart of man is wicked. Without the law of the land, evil would be unrestrained and our world would be much different. Everything our Father does is because He loves us and it is for our protection and our good as His children.

Remember, if a person who finds himself judged by the law of the land, turns to the Lord for mercy, God is able to rescue and deliver those who call upon Him for help. He can bring good out of every situation. Many people turn to Jesus when they find themselves under the

judgement of the law of the land. It is here where many begin to listen and find God's grace to transform their lives. He can bring good out of even the worst mistakes that we make if we'll turn to Him to rescue us. He turns our ashes into beauty (Isaiah 61:1-4).

Those who find themselves under the judgement of governing officials need to hear the Good News about Jesus so their lives can be transformed by His love and grace! God can bring something beautiful out of anyone's life when they begin to receive His love and mercy!

II. Love from the center of who you are

Rom 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another.

If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

Rom 13:9 For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. NLT

Colossians 3:9-14: You have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourself with a brand new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more about Christ, who created this new nature within you. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are Jew or a Gentile... Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people who he loves, clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you can forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. NLT

Note 3 at Ro 13:8: Mankind as a whole had misunderstood the purpose of the Law. They thought that God was giving a list of what people must do to be accepted by Him. But the Law was given to convince people that they didn't have a chance of saving themselves; they needed a savior (see [note 4 at Ro 3:19](#)).

However, the Law was accurate and a perfect description of what God created man to be. The Law portrayed what those who were walking in God's kind of love would do. Man still can't keep the Law perfectly in the flesh (see [note 9 at Ro 8:4](#)), but the New Testament believers can now fulfill the spirit of the Old Testament Law as those in the Old Testament never could. (Andrew Wommack)

Verses 9 & 10: The whole law is summed up in love one another as you love yourself.

In Romans 3:30-31 the Apostle Paul says, **"There is only one God, and He makes people right with Himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. 31 Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.**

It is only through receiving the love of the Father by believing who we are in Jesus, that we are empowered to love others. We love because He first loved us. The fruit of love comes from a

heart that knows and believes they are righteous and loved. When we have faith -- rely upon Jesus -- we love from the center of who we are!

III. Awake to who you are and you will no longer be a slave to sin!

Rom 13:11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. **Wake up**, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Rom 13:12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of light.

Rom 13:13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. NLT

Rom 13:14 But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [*indulging*] the flesh [*put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature*] to [*gratify its*] desires (lusts). AMP

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not

Clothing ourselves with Jesus has to do with the renewing of our minds. We are already clothed with righteousness because Jesus gave us His perfect righteousness as a gift. But the amount of righteous fruit we see in our lives is a direct result of us receiving God's grace on a daily basis to transform the way we think. When we look to the Spirit of Grace to renew our thoughts and attitudes, we are clothing ourselves with Jesus.

Eph 4:23 Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **24** Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. NLT

When we wake up to our true righteous nature in Christ, sin will no longer be an issue in our lives. A person who knows they are righteous in Jesus and relies on Him daily, has the power to live free from a life of sin (fear, worry, anger, resentment, jealousy, quarreling, promiscuity, drunkenness, and immoral living).

Even though at times we all fail, those who know they are righteous in Christ are not enslaved to a life of sin. They get back up, refocus on Jesus, and allow Him to transform the way they think and to empower them to bear the fruit of righteousness. When you awake to righteousness, sin can no longer condemn you, nor can it keep you enslaved to its bondage. For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed!