

**Sermon:** The Christian and Politics  
**Series:** *Turning the World Upside Down*

**Scripture:** Rom. 13:1-14  
**Date:** August 16, 2020

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) What do we learn about God's ordaining of governments from this passage? In what ways in government/politics a good gift from God?

b) Read also Matthew 22:15-22. How does Jesus show us that we are to submit to government but also that government submits to God? (Note the word "image" – whose image is on the coin, whose image is on Caesar (and everyone)?)

**2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?**

a) How does Paul describe our relationship to government, and how is our response to government connected to our submission to God himself?

b) We said that politics can be dangerous because they can become our source of self-justification. Politics can replace Christ and the Church as our "Belonging, Righteousness, Meaning, and Salvation." Where have you seen this at work in your own heart?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Read Romans 13:8-14. We must obey the greater law of love and the greater Lord, Jesus Christ. How do Christ and his love moderate (bring balance to) our political positions?

b) Why is it important for a church to have people of differing political views? How does it test our faith and our love?

**APPLICATION**

a) Read Romans 13:14. Paul says "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ." What is one specific way you can put on Jesus in the public or political sphere?

**PRAYER**

Thank God and pray for your government leaders (to promote good and punish evil).

Confess any ways you have allowed your politics to become an idol of your heart.

Ask God to help you put on Christ and his light and love in all of your public life.