

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER**  
**1136 Baseline Road**  
**Grand Island, New York**  
**716-773-3748 www.bfcgi.org**

**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**December 14, 2014 8:30 & 10:15 AM**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann  
Piano Wendy Baldwin  
Announcements Ron Mock

**MEDITATION**

Romans 13:3-5 (on opposite page)

Scripture

Prayer

Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> candle signifying the shepherd's abiding in the field

Luke 2:8-9, 15b

Hymns 107, 769

Pastoral Prayer

Carol Favorites

Message

Galatians 4:4-7

Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 282

"O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"

Benediction

**THE MINISTRY OF MISSION**

**For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.**

**WESTMINSTER CATECHISM**

Question 38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection? Answer: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:43; Matthew 25:23

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up

Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm- Ernie Beck

No Precept study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Wendy Baldwin

Wednesday Bible study at 9:30am with Jim O'Rourke

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am - Margaret Was

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!

Sunday messages are available on CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

\*Christmas Caroling Monday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> bus leaves 6pm sharp!\*

Ladies Christmas luncheon is on Dec.20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol service at 6pm.

Romans 13:3-5 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup>For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

In verse 3, the government is described as a "terror to evil." Our government has now agencies that specifically watch and attempt to foil "terror." All of that stemmed from the attack that is now 13 years old. Governments should reward the good, and punish the evil. The state according to this verse exists for the good of its subjects.

In verse 4, Paul discusses the officer of the state and gives him the designation: "God's minister." Pastors are God's ministers, but that is in the realm of the spiritual. For state ministers, they represent God to the people in the temporal and material spheres. There have been some great national leaders—Mrs. Merkel in Germany comes to mind as one who has the best interests of the people at heart and it shows in that nation. But still I am afraid most people in most countries would say that chapter 13 of Romans is good in theory, but it fails in reality. Paul was writing to the Romans, who would soon be blessed by the reign of what National Geographic 3 months ago called "Rome's Bad Boy." Yet Nero represented a government that Paul appealed to while he was about to be killed by the religious leaders of Palestine—and that appeal extended his life. So perhaps we cannot stand as the judge of what is written in Romans 13. God is the judge, and we should leave that judgment to Him.

Verse 4 has also been utilized as a New Testament proof of the state's right to employ capital punishment. This is founded on the statement made by God in Genesis 9:6 regarding the shedding of man's blood—it is by man (government) that his blood shall be shed.

Verse 5 unveils the external and internal coercion to submission. We submit to avoid God's wrath, and in reality it is God's wrath, because He executes it through the government. There is an exception to subordination to the state in this verse—"for conscience sake." Christians should obey God rather than man as it was said in Acts 5:29. If there is a contradiction between God and the state, of course God wins.