

## 2.

Rom. 13:6-8

# Be Paid Up

The latter part of Paul's epistle to the Romans is, as each of his epistles were, very practical. As one participant in the first study in this series said in our study of the first 5 verses of Romans 13, "My problem with this passage isn't that I don't understand it - *it's that I do!*" Given that the original audience of this epistle were living at a time when the known world was ruled by one of the most brutal empires in human history, the Roman Empire, Paul's statements in this next passage must have seemed extraordinary to them. As with anything in the New Testament, we need to remember that none of it was written *to* us, but all of it was written *for* us. This means that we must *discern* how a passage of Scripture applies to us today. This passage, Romans 13:6-8, is *not* like some other New Testament passages which may seem somewhat obscure to us today. As we consider this passage, may God give us the grace to appropriately apply it to our lives.

1. How does Romans 13:6 correspond to the words of Christ in Matthew 22:17-21?

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2. Does this mean that Christians shouldn't try to minimise their tax?

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3. What reason does Paul give for why Christians should pay the tax they owe? (Rom. 13:6)

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4. Based on Romans 13:7, what might you say to a Christian who told a Christian run business that they would not pay their bill because they were too slow in sending them their bill?
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5. Considering Romans 13:7, should we only respect those who have earned our respect? Discuss.
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Respect and honour, which are mentioned side by side in Romans 13:7, and maybe sound like synonyms, but they are not. *Respect* is a subjective response. *Honour* is an objective response.

6. Identify which definition matches either *respect* <R> or *honour* <H> :

<\_\_\_\_> hold in high regard      <\_\_\_\_> be wary of  
<\_\_\_\_> have a high opinion of      <\_\_\_\_> applaud, acclaim, praise  
<\_\_\_\_> treat as more important      <\_\_\_\_> willingness to serve  
<\_\_\_\_> listen to closely      <\_\_\_\_> deeply admire

7. Consider Romans 13:8. How might you respond to someone who is a part of your church, and despite people's best efforts to connect with them, feels that no-one in the church loves them?
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8. If you were to ask God to help you to live out Romans 13:8, how might an answer to that prayer look in your life?
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*Amen.*