

**PLEASE NOTE** - The references below are taken from the 86-19 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Romans 12:4) 4 For just as we have in one body many members, but the members do not all have the same function,

\*\*\* w09 10/15 p. 5 pars. 9-10 "Be Aglow With the Spirit" \*\*\*

9 Read Romans 12:4, 5, 9, 10. Paul compares anointed Christians to members of a body serving unitedly under their Head, Christ. (Col. 1:18) He reminds spirit-begotten Christians that a body has many members with different functions and that they, "although many, are one body in union with Christ." In a similar vein, Paul exhorted anointed Christians in Ephesus: "Let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. From him all the body, by being harmoniously joined together and being made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed, according to the functioning of each respective member in due measure, makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."—Eph. 4:15, 16.

10 Although the "other sheep" are not part of the composite body of Christ, they can learn much from this illustration. (John 10:16) Paul states that Jehovah "subjected all things under [Christ's] feet, and made him head over all things to the congregation." (Eph. 1:22) Today, the other sheep are part of "all things" placed by Jehovah under the headship of his Son. They are also among the "belongings" that Christ has entrusted to his "faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) Those with an earthly hope should, therefore, recognize Christ as their Head and be submissive to the faithful and discreet slave and its Governing Body and to the men appointed as overseers in the congregation. (Heb. 13:7, 17) This contributes to Christian unity.

(Romans 12:15) 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

\*\*\* w17 July p. 15 par. 14 "Weep With Those Who Weep" \*\*\*

Often, though, the most helpful thing you can do is to "weep with those who weep." (Rom. 12:15) "Tears have become the language of my heart," admits Gaby, whose husband died. "That is why I get some comfort when friends cry with me. At that moment, I don't feel quite so alone in my grief."

\*\*\* w17 July p. 16 par. 20 "Weep With Those Who Weep" \*\*\*

God promises that "he will do away with death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces." (Isa. 25:8, ftn.) Then, instead of having to "weep with those who weep," all earth's inhabitants will "rejoice with those who rejoice."—Rom. 12:15.

\*\*\* w15 2/15 p. 9 par. 15 Imitate Jesus' Humility and Tenderness \*\*\*

"Weep with those who weep," says Romans 12:15. Downhearted ones may need empathy more than answers. One sister who felt comforted by fellow believers after the loss of her daughter says: "I appreciated it when friends came over and just cried with me."

(Romans 12:21) 21 Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil, but keep conquering the evil with the good.

\*\*\* w16 September p. 9 par. 4 Keep Contending for Jehovah's Blessing \*\*\*

The Bible warns us: "Do not let yourself be conquered by the evil, but keep conquering the evil with the good." (Rom. 12:21) The encouragement not to let ourselves "be conquered by the evil" shows that we can defeat evil. We can do so if we keep on fighting against it.

(Romans 13:5) 5 There is therefore compelling reason for you to be in subjection, not only on account of that wrath but also on account of your conscience.

\*\*\* w11 9/1 pp. 21-22 Taxes—Must You Pay Them? \*\*\*

Notice that Christians obeyed the command in Romans chapter 13 not merely because they wanted to avoid punishment but also “on account of [their] conscience.” (Romans 13:5) Yes, a Christian’s conscience actually requires him to pay taxes, even if these are used to support activities that he personally rejects. To understand this seeming paradox, we must recognize a key fact about our conscience, the inner voice that tells us whether our actions are right or wrong.

Everyone has such an inner voice, as Thoreau observed, but it is not necessarily trustworthy. In order for us to please God, our conscience must conform to his moral standards. We often need to adjust our thinking or viewpoint to align with God’s because his thoughts are superior to ours. (Psalm 19:7) We should therefore endeavor to understand God’s view of human governments. What is his view?

We note that the apostle Paul called human governments “God’s public servants.” (Romans 13:6) What does that mean? Basically it means that they maintain order and perform valuable duties for society. Even the most corrupt governments often provide such services as mail delivery, public education, fire protection, and law enforcement. Although God is fully aware of the defects of these man-made authorities, he tolerates their existence for a time and mandates that we pay taxes out of respect for his arrangement, that is, his permitting such governments to rule mankind.

God’s allowance of rule by human governments, however, is only temporary. It is his will to replace all of them with his heavenly Kingdom and ultimately undo all the damage that human rulership has inflicted upon mankind through the centuries. (Daniel 2:44; Matthew 6:10) In the meantime,

though, God has not authorized Christians to engage in civil disobedience by refusing to pay taxes or by any other means.

(Romans 13:11) 11 And do this because you know the season, that it is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers.

\*\*\* w13 11/15 p. 7 par. 17 “Be Vigilant With a View to Prayers” \*\*\*

17 Just before stating that “the night is well along; the day has drawn near,” Paul wrote: “You people know the season, that it is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers.” (Rom. 13:11, 12) God’s promised new world is near, and our salvation is nearer than we may think. We must not fall asleep spiritually, and we should never allow the world’s distractions to crowd out our time to be alone with Jehovah in prayer. Instead, let us “be vigilant with a view to prayers.” Doing so will help us to engage in “holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion” as we await the day of Jehovah. (2 Pet. 3:11, 12) Our way of life will thus reveal that we are staying awake spiritually and that we really believe that the end of this wicked system of things is imminent.

