

here and a touching on it there. And under the circumstances it is always good that we examine the question a little bit ourselves, that we get the idea of the general, the whole matter, in general. And then anything that we say, from our reasonable investigation of it, ~~it~~ must be subject to change, to careful examination, in the light of the Scripture. It must not be accepted ^{as final} without the clear definite Scriptural teaching. But it may be the best we can do. Of course, it is true also, the Scripture is written in human words. And to know what those words mean, often, we have to get something of their background and see how they have been used. And so this is an explanation of why it is that in a connection with the matter of govt., govt. in ~~general~~ general, I am not starting immediately with a Scriptural passage. We will touch on a number in this connection. But I want to start with asking the question, what do we mean when we talk about govt.

You have heard about the Irishman who always said, what is the govt. of this country, I'm agin it. What ever the govt. is he was agin it. There are those who take that attitude toward ~~govt.~~ govt. Govt. is something which is necessarily bad. There are others who have taken the attitude, whatever govt. says we must do. And you get a wicked govt., they can let you do all kinds of wickedness. We have seen that even in our own generation. But what do we mean by govt.? Why do we even bother with govt. anyway. What interest is it to us in general., Well, you might say that if a person was cast on a desert island, and he was there alone, and nobody else ever came to that island, you might say that under those circumstances, a person, you might say, ~~would~~ would not be interested in govt. Well, you can't quite say that. He would need to think about governing himself. He would have to for his survival to some extent, govern himself. Then he would have to think of the question, are there certain phases of God's government which are ~~so~~ vital to me, even though I am here alone, and which it is my duty to obey? But to a man cast on a desert island, these two questions might not seem tremendously important. And he might think that govt. is something that doesn't concern him. But