

But it is the third aspect. We notice, I think it is very unfortunate that in all of our civil life and in our church life the word govt. is used in the three senses. And it is better if it can be distinguished. The vital aspects of govt, we noticed, ~~taxpayers~~ are protection of individuals from other individuals. That is what govt. is ~~primary~~ primarily for. And if anybody questions that that is what govt. is ~~pre~~ primarily for, let them look at Romans 13:1-~~ix~~ 7. Because in this passage we find the apostle saying let every sould be subject to the higher powers. " That means to the Lord, and to the Holy Spirit, well as you read on you find that he is speaking of powers here in a different sense. This is not power in the sense of a force, in the ~~enxxx~~ sense of something that can accomplish, it is power in the sense of ~~xxx~~ authority. Let every sould be subject to the higher authority, for there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God. Paul, writing to ~~be~~ Romans, suffering under the wickedness of Nero, the cruel tyrannical emperor, and he says that the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever then resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God, and they that ~~xxxx~~ resist shall receive for themselves damnation. For ~~xxxx~~ rulers/ are not ~~xx(x)~~ ^{a terror} to good works but to the evil. Well, it wasn't long ~~before~~ before Paul found that Nero was a terror to the Christians and a terror to the good works. He is speaking here of one aspect of rulers.

Rulers are not a terror to the good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power. All these words power, all through here, authority. Do that which is good and thou shalt have praise of the same. Well, would you get praise from Nero for doing what is good. You might, but you might not. For he is the minister of God to be for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid, for he beareth not the sword in vain, for he is the minister of God a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. And I Pet. 2:13-16 speaks quite similarly. And in these two passages it is quite obvious ~~z~~ in other passages, the Lord is not saying if a secular ruler ordered you to do what is immoral, what is wicked you are to do it. He is not saying that. You are to obey God rather than man. We are not subject to secular rulers in the sense that