



# THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of  
Ashley River Baptist Church

## “THE CHRISTIAN PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE”

### Romans 13:1-7

**Romans 13:1-7** 1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

#### I. GOD'S PRINCIPLE: SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT (1-5)

##### Reasons:

- 1. Spiritual:** God instituted law and order  
Civil Disobedience is right when there is clear conflict between man's law and God's law
- 2. External:** God entrusted punishment to the state  
"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." *Genesis 9:6*
- 3. Internal:** Keep a clear conscience  
"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith." *1 Timothy 1:5*

#### II. OUR PRACTICE: GIVE WHAT YOU OWE (6-7)

Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."  
And they were amazed at him. *Mark 12:17*

- 1. Finances:** Give cheerfully to God first;  
Pay your taxes willingly
- 2. Fear:** Fear displeasing God more;  
Fear the punishment of government
- 3. Fidelity:** Honor God's character first;  
Honor the position of leader

#### CHALLENGE

The Bible says, "There's a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of destruction."

Ask the Holy Spirit right now to convict your heart about:

- being a good citizen
- praying for your government,
- paying what you owe, no more, but no less,
- obeying all the laws of our government

It is a spiritual issue. As a Christian, ask God to help you pledge your allegiance to be a Christian citizen who is a living testimony to others, especially in times of difficulty.