

A few points and questions to consider:

Douglas J. Moo notes in his commentary on Romans that *“Few passages of scripture have been studied and analyzed over the years more than Romans 13:1-7. The history of interpretation has largely been the history of attempts to avoid what the passage at first sight plainly seems to be saying.”* Moo goes on to give examples from history and from scripture where believers were justified in choosing to “Obey God and not man” but he does so – as should we – from the perspective of bringing *“Scripture into harmony on this matter of obedience to governmental authorities.”*

Pastor Brad did the same by noting the expectation is for earthly authorities to operate within the confines or boundaries of scripture. By the same token, we – as Believers – should not be “looking for loopholes” around this scripture. We should “view” our governing authorities – as we should with all aspects of our lives – through the “lens” of scripture, and that includes doing so with respect and honor.

Spend a few moments and pray about the issues of the day. Consider the burden that’s being carried by our federal, state, and local officials as they face the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other issues and unrest in our society. As you pray, identify at least one elected or appointed official each at the local, state, and federal levels – or you may identify more – and commit to pray for those persons. Consider writing them a letter or sending an email of encouragement, letting them know you are praying for them.

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Once again, we encourage you to dig a little deeper into this passage by preparing a HEAR Report. As noted in previous weeks, HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond.

- Read thru this passage and HIGHLIGHT a verse(s) that you found especially powerful.
- EXPLAIN the verse. What was the context and purpose for what was written and when it was written.
- APPLY the verse to yourself
- Lastly, RESPOND to the verse. Maybe there are changes God wants you to make in your life w.r.t. the verse. Or your response may be a prayer to God. It may be praising Him. However you feel led to respond.

As has been pointed out by others, the goal isn't for you / me to jot down a "profound truth" but to note the "truth you found."

Please email us and let us know how this passage spoke to you. Also let us know if you have any general comments, suggestions, etc. for this midweek Bible study program. *We want and need to hear from you.* Email address: [connect@madisonavenuebc.org](mailto:connect@madisonavenuebc.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

H.E.A.R. REPORT for \_\_\_\_\_ (Bible passage).

Highlight a verse(s)

Explain what the text means.

Possible questions to consider: *Why was this written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses immediately before and after it? Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book? What is He intending to communicate through this text?*

Apply "the significance of these verses to you personally"

Possible questions to consider: *How can this help me? What does this mean to me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What does this mean to me? How does this apply to my family, my church family, my community? What is God saying to me?*

Respond

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Matthew 7:7 (ESV), "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Source: Growing Up, Robby Gallaty