

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical: 12:1-15:33** (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

In Romans, Paul emphasizes that we are made righteous on the basis of FAITH alone in Christ alone, and our FAITH is in Jesus for Who He is as Lord and Savior. As Savior, He died for all our sins (Rom. 5:8-9); as Lord over all, He arose on the third day. Saving faith from the heart BELIEVES in Him resulting in salvation.

Slide # 2

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**, for it is the power of God to salvation **for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Slide # 3

Romans 5:8–9 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us. (Savior)**

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God **raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. **(Lord)**

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. But the issue then is this: How shall we then live as believers? Paul answers this question in Romans 12:1-2 where he exhorts the believer to present his body as a living sacrifice to God with is our reasonable spiritual service.

In a sense everything in the practical section flows out of Romans 12:1-2 and our commitment to living for God as a living sacrifice. It affects all the relationships of life including our attitude toward the government.

Slide # 4***Faith → Changed Lives***

- Rom. 12:1-2 Love for God
- Rom. 12:3-16 Love for the body of Christ
- Rom. 12:17-21 Love for our enemies
- Rom. 13:1-7 Respect for the State

God has ordained three institutions: 1) The home (Gen. 2:18-25); 2) the government (Gen. 9:1-17); and 3) the Church (Acts 2). How a Christian lives out his life in relation to these three institutions is a huge thing in the Bible.

Every person lives under a government of one type or another. It is a reality of living in the world. I know people sometimes just want to find an island somewhere and live by themselves, but in reality it won't happen – because some governing authority is over the island. All of us have to deal with the reality of human government on one level or another.

For the early Christians this presented a challenge. You see Caesar claimed to be Lord but they honored Jesus alone as Lord and no one else. Many thought that to pay taxes furthered the godless government, and so questioned this practice. So the question becomes: How shall we view and respond toward the governing authorities – especially if they are godless?

Paul addresses this issue in Romans 13:1-7.

Most human government since the time it was instituted in Genesis 9 has NOT been godly. There has always been corruption and often abuse.

The right to legislate and govern man proved to be a heady wine for a fallen race. The story of the tower of Babel shows how man used his newfound authority to plan an organized rebellion against the very throne of God itself. Up until this time rebellion had been on an individual basis; now, it had become federated. The world's first "united nations" with headquarters in Babylon symbolizes the last one. Genesis 11 and 12 foreshadow Revelation 13, 17-18.

– *John Phillips*

That is true and even now we see the governments of the world often uniting in ungodly causes. But still God is SOVEREIGN and that is where our faith comes in. We have to come back to the truth that God ever remains sovereign even over the most wicked of regimes.

And God's ways are not our ways. He uses the fruit of the Spirit and working through weak and frail humans to accomplish His purposes. He uses the way of the cross to accomplish His purposes. First the cross – then the crown – that is God's way.

Often people have grappled over how the Church should relate to the state. Some take the view that the state controls the church; others think the church should control the state; still others see a complete distinction between church and state. The right view is that the Church and the State are separate, each having their own specialized God-given role distinct from that of the other.

Slide # 5

CHURCH (SBC – Doctrinal Statement)

While maintaining a spirit of interdependence with like-minded churches, each local church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. Therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties apart from the dictation or patronage of the other.

The Church and the State have different roles and the Christian has duties both to God and the state as indicated by Jesus.

Slide # 6**Matthew 22:21 (NKJV)**

21 They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Jesus’ single sentence is certainly the most important political statement ever made! – ***R. Kent Hughes***

Jesus’s statement clearly delineates between the realm of the state and that which belongs to God. Again, the Christian has duties and responsibilities in relation to both, but the point is they are distinct and separate.

Romans 13:1-7 is the most notable passage in the NT on Christian civic responsibility (cf. Mk. 12:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

After making his case that the Christian should never respond to abuse or mistreatment with vengeance, Paul now shows that the state is God’s minister as an avenger to execute wrath on those who practice evil. This is the role of the state. Believers are not to take punitive action, but the state may do so. And so Paul, at this point, segues from loving your enemies in chapter 12 to our responsibility to the state in chapter 13.

Paul starts out bold and clear...

Romans 13:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Paul here states the NORM and not the exception. Other Scriptures deal with exceptions, (and I will touch on this shortly), but in the norm, every soul (every believer, since Paul is addressing believers) should be subject to the governing authorities.

In general, we are called to be ideal good citizens. We are not to be rabble-rousers or revolutionaries. We are not to be lawless but rather God-fearing – law-abiding people.

The word “subject” is actually a military term meaning “to rank under” or “to be in subjection to” (cf. Titus 3:1).

Slide # 7**1 Peter 2:13–14 (NKJV)**

13 Therefore **submit** yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

Paul tells the believer to submit to the governing authorities, and then he gives the major reason why: **“For there is no authority from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”**

Government is God's idea. No one has governing authority in a vacuum. They are only in that position because God has sovereignly brought it about. Remember God promotes some things, He prevents some things, and He permits some things, but He is sovereign over all things. The authorities that be are in that position only because of God. It is impossible to remove God from the equation of Romans 13:1.

Even Satan realizes the authority and position he has – has only been granted to him by the permissive will of God.

Slide # 8**Luke 4:6 (NKJV)**

6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for **this has been delivered to me**, and I give it to whomever I wish.

The Antichrist will make himself out to be Almighty God but in truth he is able to do what he does only because it has been given to him and it is allotted to him for a very specific amount of time.

Slide # 9**Revelation 13:5 (NKJV)**

5 And he was **given** a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was **given** authority to continue for forty-two months.

God ever remains sovereign and governing authorities can only move within the bounds allotted by God.

They are like a dog on a chain and can only go as far as God allows. Pilate, as wicked rulers tend to do, thought very highly of himself and Jesus put him in his place.

Slide # 10

John 19:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that **I have power** to crucify You, and **power** to release You?”

11 Jesus answered, “**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

Nebuchadnezzar thought he was a self-made man and then God schooled him and taught him a lesson that he wants all mankind to know. God removed him from his throne and turned him out to pasture for 7 years until he got to the point.

Slide # 11

Daniel 4:17 (NKJV)

17 ‘This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the **Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it** to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.’

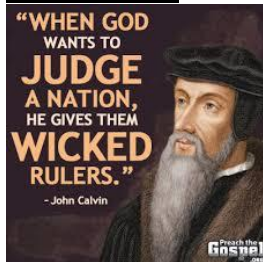
Daniel 4:25 (NKJV)

25 ...till you know that the **Most High rules in the kingdom of men,** and **gives it** to whomever He chooses.

Daniel 4:32 (NKJV)

32 ...until you know that the **Most High rules in the kingdom of men,** and **gives it** to whomever He chooses.”

The context of Daniel is most interesting. Here God’s people – His chosen people were in slavery down in Babylon. The pagans thought their gods gave them the victory over the people they had defeated – which in this case was the Jews. But God showed that He is sovereign – and He made the point to Nebuchadnezzar that he was not a self-made man – but rather God in His sovereignty rules in the kingdom of men and He is the One Who gives it to whoever He chooses. This election year it is good to be reminded of this. And remember Dan. 4:17 says He, “sets over it the lowest of men”.

Slide # 12

It is a saying well worth considering that “people get the kind of government they deserve.” Governments may be weak or strong, just or oppressive, benevolent or cruel, wise or foolish, but in each case God has His way and moves His own plans forward. – **John Phillips**

Realize that Paul is writing Romans in about AD 57 and Nero reigned as Caesar from 54-68 AD. Nero was a vicious man. He himself killed his step-brother when the boy was merely 14 years old. Later he had his own mother killed. He had his first wife exiled where she was killed. Still later he killed his second wife. He was horribly immoral and by all appearance was bisexual. He was murderously brutal towards Christians.

Many think it was Nero himself who started the fire that burned half of Rome down and then blamed it on the Christians. He tarred them and lit them up as human torches in his garden. He covered Christians in the skins of wild animals and then allowed them to be torn to pieces by dogs. He showed no mercy.

It was the Roman government that put our Lord to death. It was the Roman government that killed both Paul and Peter. And yet through it all God was working out His sovereign purposes.

It impresses me that under restrictive, totalitarian, and atheistic governments of the Soviet Union and China the church has flourished and grown stronger than anywhere in the world. At the same time, the professing church within the free and democratic environments of Western Europe and Japan is small, weak, and dead.

– **John MacArthur**

We recently had a Grace University reunion, and one of our schoolmates remembered one of our professors saying, “*God works in the strangest of ways.*” How true that is. But the point is He is sovereign! And if indeed He is sovereign, why should we worry and fret? We shouldn’t! That is a terrible testimony. Yes, be a responsible citizen, but then leave it with God.

Slide # 13**Daniel 2:20–21 (NKJV)**

20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

21 And He changes the times and the seasons; **He removes kings and raises up kings**; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

God is in control and nobody secures a position of rulership unless God permits. Ordered government is not a human device, but something of divine origin. – **Leon Morris**

In the back of Paul’s mind is his appreciation of Rome’s legal and commercial system of roads, sea-lanes, citizenship, and common Greek language that promote the spread of Christianity and are ingredients in this right moment in history (“when the time had fully come” [Gal. 4:4]).

- ***Evangelical Commentary on the Bible***

Slide # 14 (James Russell Lowell)

Footnote: Paul here in Romans 13:1 uses a Greek word (hupotasso) translated as “**submit**”. It is the same word he used in Eph. 5:21 where he says to believers “submitting to one another” or to the wife in Eph. 5:22, “Wives submit to your own husbands”. But note that Paul uses a different Greek word (hupakouo) in Eph. 6:1 translated as OBEY when he says, “Children, obey your parents.”

“Submit to one another” (Eph. 5:21); consistently taking the lower place over against one another is understandable, but obeying one another consistently is not. There is nothing servile about the attitude to authority that Paul is advocating. He simply looks for a due recognition of the subordinate place that is part of the Christian understanding of life. – **Leon Morris**

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

To openly resist or rebel against God ordained authority is to in fact to resist what God has ordained which in effect is to take on God.

The word “resist” means “to stand against” or “to oppose”. It is the exact opposite of submission.

And those who resist will bring judgment on themselves which probably means the judgment of the government.

As Jesus told Peter, “all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” (Mt. 26:52) The Jews had to learn this the hard way.

When they dared to take on Rome in the Great Revolt of 66-70 AD Josephus said that about 1.1 million Jews were killed. You take up the sword – you perish by the sword.

Note at this point that Paul was addressing the saints in Rome which was the very hub of the Roman Empire. Clearly, he was teaching they should not openly defy Rome as revolutionaries and that those who would dare to do so would bring judgment down upon themselves. That certainly proved to be true in a matter of just a few short years as illustrated in what happened to the Jews.

Paul, in his letters (and Peter, too), emphasized the issue of God-ordained authority and the importance of proper submission to it.

Slide # 15

The issue of Submission to Gov't:

- Rom. 13:1-7
- Titus 3:1-2
- 1 Pet. 2:11-21

The apostles were not ambiguous on this point and yet the whole counsel of God shows there is a place for NOT obeying the government. The government is NOT God. And our first allegiance, above all, is to God. We are to obey the government at every point possible unless they demand from us that which violates our conscience in regard to the Word of God.

Caesar has no right to touch my conscience. If I yield to him there, I am a traitor to the truth. – ***William Newell***

Paul doesn't address "exceptions" here, but the whole counsel of God is clear that there is a place for humble disobedience if the governing authorities command us to act contrary to God's Word. Then we ought to obey God rather than men, and we are to do so humbly, accepting whatever the consequences may be.

Slide # 16

Exceptions to submission to Gov't in the Bible

1. Protection of human life (Exodus 1:16-17).
2. Bible-based convictions (Dan. 1:8).
3. In the matter of Idolatry (Dan. 3:17-18).
4. In the matter of prayer (Dan. 6:10).
5. In the matter of preaching the gospel (Acts 4:18-20; 5:28-29, 40-42).

The apostles laid out the issue very clearly when they were ordered not to preach the gospel, which is fundamental to the command of God and the mission of the Church.

Slide # 17

Acts 5:28–29 (NKJV)

28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you **not to teach in this name?** And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **"We ought to obey God rather than men."**

The principle is clear. We are to submit right up to the point where obedience to the state would entail disobedience to God. But if the state commands what God forbids, or forbids what God commands, then our plain Christian duty is to resist, not to submit, to disobey the state in order to obey God. – **John Stott**

In this discussion often, the subject of the American Revolutionary War is brought up, and the scholars debate whether or not it was a just war.

Slide # 18

Some justify the Revolution War on the principle "*that it is morally right for a lower government official to protect the citizens in his care from a higher official who is committing crimes against these citizens*" which is traced back to John Calvin.

War is always “messy”. People talk in theory of a “just war” and then as it goes on you start to wonder is it “just war”. It’s not always easy to sort these things out in a fallen world like ours.

After World War II the Nazi leaders were put on trial in the Nuremberg war trials for their part in the atrocities of the Holocaust which accounted for the death of 6 million Jews. A most common defense was this: “I was only following orders.” They might have appealed to texts like Romans 13. On the surface, that might sound convincing, but at some point, personal accountability to a HIGHER authority must take precedence.

My father, Erich Dentler was called up for military service in World War II, because the Fuhrer needed soldiers on the Eastern Front. He was only 17. It was during the cold winter of 1941/42. My father had a Christian friend who abandoned his gun during an advance – refusing to attack the enemy because of his religious convictions. He was lined up against the wall for “cowardice in the face of the enemy.” Before being executed, he was asked for his last words. He called out into the bitter cold, “I know my Savior lives.” Then he was shot. ... [This] deeply moved my father. It was one of the things that helped him find his own way to the Savior not long afterward.

– **Daniel Dentler**

This is where I say that Christianity is a “thinking person’s faith”. I reserve the right to do my own thinking. Some people might think it spiritual to just blindly follow along – but I don’t. When we get to Romans 14, we will find that it is never right to violate your own conscience, and believers are to be very sensitive to this reality in the lives of each other. Of course, our conscience should always be guided by the Word. That is key!

Taken by itself, without any other Scriptural illumination, this statement [in Romans 13:1-2] can be wrongly interpreted to teach blind devotion to the state regardless of what it commands. Indeed this is how some Christians interpreted it in Nazi Germany despite Germany’s treatment of the Jews. However, as we consider... [other] Scriptures, we see that the Christian’s obedience to the state is always conditional, and sometimes disobedience is a duty.

– **R. Kent Hughes**

When we defy the governing authorities because of conscience's sake, we humbly accept the consequences. God uses our weakness to show Himself strong. We are fighting a spiritual war – we do not war according to the flesh. God’s ways are not our ways.

When it comes to defying the government, it is never something we should do lightly. This is definitely a place where we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).

It does not directly say what we ought to do when a government departs from the role God has given it. It does not specifically explain what to do when our government is committing a moral wrong. Neither are we told what to do in the midst of a revolution. It also does not show us which form of government is best – it does not even commend democracy! – **R. Kent Hughes**

Today for many Christians the MAJOR thing they are all about is political or social activism.

I knew a pastor who had a faction in his church that was absorbed in politics. He wrote a booklet titled, **“When Politics and Fighting the Government Becomes a Passion for the Believer”**. This so inflamed the factions involved that it literally killed the Church.

In the NT the Church's official position is that of being A-political. We are to be gospel activists. Everyone needs the Lord and we want to reach out to everyone and make the issue Jesus – just Jesus! Now of course that doesn't mean we don't take stands on moral or Bible issues – we do. But we want to make it a Bible issue – not merely a political issue.

It has been said that the Church is to be neither the master nor the slave to the state, but rather, it is to be the conscience of the state. That is pretty good! Our role is to stand for God's truth but to do it in a humble way that seeks to be a good citizen in every way possible.

And praise the Lord for the remnant of Christian governing authorities that we do have. Pray for all in authority, but especially for them.

Slide # 19

Nor is it wrong for Christians to seek political office or to speak out against the evil of this day. It is another thing when political and moral agendas take priority over the gospel of Jesus Christ and redefine Christianity. – **Tom Watson**

The great issue before the Church is what is our mission – what is our calling as a Church? Again, God's ways are not our ways. Our emphasis (if we are going to be faithful) must always be the GOSPEL.

Do we really think we are going to change the course of society through human means? We are not going to bring about real change in people's lives or thinking through fleshy efforts used by the world.

God's way (largely) is to win people through the gospel one person at a time. We are to be an army of gospel sharers – day in and day out. This is God's way of impacting society. Take that away and you just have so much effort in the flesh that will not make a lasting difference in the end.

Yes, "elections have consequences," and God can use whatever the results may be, but my point is that biblically the mission of the Church is not essentially political in nature but gospel oriented. Individually, God may call you into politics, but that is not the calling of the Church. Yes, we want to be good citizens and be wise and responsible, but above all we want to be a winsome witness to the lost world all around us on every hand.

Here is a good challenge: Are you more apt to share politics or the gospel with your neighbor? What do you talk about more with people in general – politics or the gospel? Make sure your whole orientation is primarily gospel oriented with a focus on sharing the truth in love with all people.

If we are not careful, we can spend our best energies and time on seeking to restore society versus seeking to win souls.

The focus has turned from winning souls for citizenship in heaven to political and social action aimed at cleaning up society. Scarcely a sermon is being preached about the world to come. Attention is focused instead upon achieving success in this one. If we have a big enough march on Washington and vote in enough of our candidates, then we can make this world beautiful, safe, moral, and satisfying "Chrisitan" place for our grandchildren. – ***Dave Hunt***

The world is like the Titanic – it is going down. There is no saving the world, but there is still time for individuals to get off the Titanic and get on the lifeboat, which "figuratively" is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is our mission – rescuing individuals – not merely for time but for all eternity.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Again, I think that Paul is speaking in general in terms of the everyday rules of the land that should be obeyed by all as a matter of civil obedience. He is not dealing with exceptions.

If anyone wants to enjoy a life free from tickets, fines, trials, and imprisonments, the thing to do is to be a law-abiding citizen.

– **William MacDonald**

In general, the Christian should be a good, law-abiding citizen, and in doing this, the expectation is that in the norm, the rulers will appreciate this. The threat they hold against law-breakers is not with regard to those who do good works but rather towards those who do evil. This is the expected norm in terms of the basic civil laws of the land.

With this in mind Paul says, “Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.”

Have you seen this: You are going with the flow of traffic and essentially everyone is going over the speed limit except that irritant who insists on going strictly according to the posted speed limit. Suddenly, a cop comes into view, and all of a sudden, brake lights come on all over the place. It’s like they all go tap dancing at the same time. I must confess this also happens to me.

But if you don’t want to be in trouble with the law – simply obey the law. You don’t have to be afraid if you are keeping the law. They are not after you – rather they commend that law-keeping behavior.

The book of 1 Peter makes a clear distinction between those who suffer as a result of the wrong that they have done and those who suffer as a result of their Christian testimony (see 1 Pet. 2:4, 19-20; 3:13-14; 4:14-16). – **George Zellar**

We as Christians should be those who consistently are not evil-doers in the sense of being lawbreakers. Rather we should be outstanding citizens who in general obey the laws of the land. This is praiseworthy!

Verse 3 reflects what a proper governing authority should be expected to do. 1) They should be “a terror” to evildoers (lawbreakers) for the good of society. Good government deals with criminals in a strong manner.

Slide # 20

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NKJV)

11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

If the government won't crack down on criminal activity it only emboldens the criminal element all the more – and we see so much of this in our society with so many corrupt judges, etc.

2) The government should promote and appreciate good citizenship that obeys the law of the land. This is to be expected from a properly well-ordered government.

Slide # 21**Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV)**

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

Proverbs 29:12 (NKJV)

12 If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants become wicked.

The influence of leadership on a nation is huge. In an article in Israel My Glory by Bruce Scott (whom I went to school with) titled “Safeguarding God’s Ancient Landmark” he writes:

On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of same-sex marriage in all 50 states. ...The ruling reverberates today because it officially, formally, and institutionally authorized the undermining of biblical, God-ordained marriage. ... It opened a Pandora’s box full of unbridled, degrading passions (cf. Rom. 1:26-27). Once people reject God’s definition of marriage, they see everything as permissible. The ripple effect has produced nothing short of a societal detachment from objective reality. Today people even find it hard to define what constitutes a man or a woman. Israel My Glory, p. 28

So what should we do? March on the Supreme Court? Burn down buildings? Scream and holler. Paul says we should do nothing of the kind. We should continue to be good citizens at every point possible. If they command me to perform same-sex weddings, it is a given we will defy that order, but that has not happened yet. And Paul instructs us to pray...

Slide # 22**1 Timothy 2:1–2 (NKJV)**

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

People need the Lord. We need to pray for them. Wicked leaders need prayer! Do you suppose Paul practiced what he preached? Do you suppose he regularly prayed for Nero? I have no doubt that he did!

Good government restrains evil and promotes good. We certainly should pray for them to this end and, of course, first and foremost, for their salvation.

And even bad government is better than no government. The worst thing is total anarchy which results in a total bloodbath!

Peter wrote to the suffering saints saying...

1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV)

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

What is interesting is that 12 out of 14 times in this short letter, Peter uses doing “good” in the sense of being submissive to those in authority. Both Peter and Paul hammered this principle in the days of the early church.

Back in the 1800’s a man by the name of Norman Macleod wrote a song/poem titled “***Trust in God***”.

1 Courage, brother! do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble:
trust in God, and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
and its end far out of sight;
foot it bravely; strong or weary,
trust in God, and do the right.

2 Perish policy and cunning,
perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
trust in God, and do the right.

Some will hate you, some will love you,
some will flatter, some will slight;
heed them not, and look above you:
trust in God, and do the right.

3 Simple rule and safest guiding,
inward peace, and inward might,
star upon our path abiding,
trust in God, and do the right.

Courage, sister! do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble:
trust in God, and do the right.

Indeed, in these troublesome days when we see the foundations being destroyed all around, may God help us to “***trust in God, and do the right***”.

As my good friend Dr. Harold Berry says, “***It's hard to improve on the theme of Trust and Obey when it comes to Christian living.***”