

# **“A Biblical Exposition Regarding Our Citizenship”**

(Sunday Morning July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

## **Passage: Romans 13:1-7**

**O.S. When Jesus Was on Trial, He Made This Statement to Governor Pilate; He Said, “...’My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” (John 18:36)**

- > **This Means That It is Not Our Purpose as Christians to Rebel Against Our Government or to Attempt to Overthrow Our Government**
- > **On the Contrary, We are Instructed in the Scriptures to be as Supportive as We Possibly Can of Our Government and to Endeavor to be Model Citizens**
- > **Our Primary Concern, in Fact, Should Not be Our Personal Rights, or Lower Taxes, or Federal Assistance After a Natural Disaster; It Should be for Us to Have the Freedom to Accomplish Our Spiritual Purpose**
- > **In 1 Tim 2:1-2, the Apostle Paul Said, “1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that (Here It Is) we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”**
- > **We are Told to Pray for All of Our Government Officials, and We are to Hope That They Will Grant Us the Ability to Lead a Tranquil and Quiet Life**
- > **Not Just Because This is Pleasant for Us Personally, But Also Because This Gives Us the Freedom and the Ability to Propagate Our Faith**
- > **This is What I Want Most From My Government; I Want the Freedom to Worship My Lord and the Freedom to be a Witness for My Lord Without Any Fear of Persecution**
- > **And as We Reach More People for Christ, We Can Expect Our Government to be Blessed in Exponential Ways**
- > **In Fact, I Believe That if We Were to Have a Widespread Spiritual Revival, This Would Result in LESS Crime, and MORE Productivity, and BETTER Families, and MORE Generosity, and MORE Kindness, and MORE Mercy, and MORE Divine Blessings**

**St = We are Also Instructed in *Titus 3:2* “to malign no one”, and This Means That We are Not to Speak Negatively About Any of Our Government Leaders**

**Q.n = Have You Spoken Negatively About Any of Our Government Leaders?**

**Ans = If the Truth Were Known, I Believe That Many of Us Have**

-> **If So, I Want to Encourage All of Us to Try to Gain Better Control of Our Speech, and the Best Was to do This is by Allowing the Holy Spirit to Transform Our Heart**

-> **For You See, Jesus Said That It is Out of the Heart That the Mouth Speaks**

-> **And So, the Place to Start is by Thinking More Positively About Our Government Leaders and by Respecting the Fact That They Have a Difficult Job to Do**

-> **And of Course, the Entreaties, and Prayers, and Petitions That Paul Mentioned in *1 Tim 2* Will Enable Us to Develop a More Positive Attitude About Them**

**Q.n = So, Let Me Ask You, How Much Time Have You Spent Praying for That Man Who Occupies the Oval Office?**

**Ans = I Certainly Hope That You Have Prayed for Him Much More Than You Have Complained About Him**

-> **One Pastor Said This; It is Not Original With Me, But I Agree With It; He Said, “*The truth of the matter is, if we spent half as much time praying for the people who are over us as we do in grumbling, griping, and complaining about those who are over us, we might have less to complain about and more to praise God for*”**

-> **I Think That’s Right, and I Think I Need That Reminder From Time to Time, and I Trust There are Some of You Who Need That Reminder From Time to Time as Well (Can I Get a Witness?)**

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**T.S. This Passage of Scripture is All About Government and How All of Us Who are Christians Should Conduct Ourselves in the Civic Arena**

-> **And So, With This in Mind, I Have Divided This Sermon Into Three Parts**

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## **I. We Should be Submissive to the Authority of Government**

## 1) Our Cooperation

### a. The Extent of It

#### *Verse 1a (Read)*

- > The Word “*Subjection*” is an Important Word; It is the Greek Word “*Hupotasso*” Which Literally Means “*To Arrange Yourself Under*”
- > It Means That We Should Endeavor to Conduct Ourselves in Such a Way That Those in Civic Government do Not View Us as Enemies of the State, But Rather, as Friends
- > In Fact, We are to do This to Such an Extent That It Will Effectively Silence Any Public Opposition That is Leveled Against Us
- > The Apostle Peter Said, “*For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.*” (1 Pet 2:15)
- > And by the Way, We Can Count on the Fact That Some People Will Try to Accuse Us of Being Enemies of the State

#### Q.n = This Happened to Jesus, Didn't It?

- > The Jews Brought Jesus to Pilate, and in *Luke 23:2*, We Read “*And they began to accuse Him, saying, ‘We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.’*”
- > Jesus Had Never Done Any of Those Things, But They Told Those Lies in Order to Bring Some Civil Charges Against Him

#### Q.n = This Happened to Paul, Didn't It?

- > The Jews Hired a Roman Attorney Named Tertullus Who Made These Accusations Against Paul; He Said, “*For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.*” (Acts 24:5) (The Pax Romana)
  - > This is One of the Reasons That We Need to do Our Best to Cooperate With the Civil Authorities, Because We Can Count on the Fact the Enemies of Our Faith Always Like to Lay the Blame on Those Conservative Christians
- ### b. The Exceptions to It

-> **We are to Cooperate With Our Government as Much as We Possibly Can; We Should Not, However, Violate the Commands of God or Our Spiritual Convictions**

**Ex = Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah are Some Great Examples of This, Because They Obeyed Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians Right Up to This Point**

-> **They Accepted Their Name Changes to Belteshazzar, to Shadrach, to Meshach and Abednego**

-> **They Even Accepted the Curriculum Which Involved Learning the Literature and Language of the Chaldeans**

-> **But When It Came to Eating the King's Food and Drinking His Wine That Had Been Offered to Idols, They Refused**

**Q.n = But Listen to Me, are You Listening?**

-> **These Young Men Did Not Practice Their Civil Obedience Arrogantly; They Did so Humbly, and They Even Offered a Reasonable Alternative**

**Ex = When the Pharaoh Ordered the Hebrew Midwives to Kill All of the Newborns, They Simply Did Not do What the Pharaoh Had Commanded Them to Do**

-> **And in *Exodus 1:20-21*, We are Told That God Was Good to the Midwives, and He Established Households for Them**

**Ex = When the Members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the Jewish Supreme Court, Told Peter and the Other Apostles That They Could Not Preach Any More in Jesus' Name, the Bible Says, "*But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'*" (Acts 5:29)**

-> **Because We are Citizens of the Kingdom of God, This is Where We Must Draw the Line, We Must Insist on Fulfilling Our Divine Purpose**

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**T.S. 1) Our Cooperation**

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**2) Our Confidence**

*Verse 1b (Read)*

- > **Our Confidence is This: We Can be Assured That God Has Sovereign Control Over Every Government That Exists**
  - > **In Acts 17:26, Paul Said This to Those Eggheads Up on Mars Hill; He Said, “and He (God) made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation”**
  - > **God Has Already Determined the Boundaries for Every Nation, and God Has Already Determined How Long They Will Exist**
  - > **And by the Way, There is Only One Kingdom That is Going to Last Forever, and That is the Kingdom of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
  - > **And So, It is Not Our Job as Christians to Lead a Rebellion Against Our Nation**
  - > **That is Not Our Job, and That Would Not Even Make Sense, Because We are Really Only Pilgrims in This World Who are Just Passing Through**
  - > **And I Need to Add That This DOES NOT Mean That We are to Withdraw From the Political Realm of Our Nation Altogether**
  - > **On the Contrary, We Should be Involved in Our Government, and We Should “Seek the Welfare of the City” as the Prophet Jeremiah Encouraged Us to Do (Jer 29:7)**
  - > **This is Especially True Since We Live in a Constitutional Republic Where We Can Have Some Degree of Influence Upon Our Government**
  - > **But Listen, It is Not Our Job to Lead a Rebellion Against Our Government Any More Than It Was Jesus’ Job to Lead a Rebellion Against Rome**
  - > **And We Can be Comforted to Know That Our God Can Deal With Corrupt Governments, and Our God Can Preserve His People as Governments Come and Go**
  - > **He Did That for Daniel, Didn’t He? Daniel Was a High Level Political Advisor Within the Babylonian Kingdom as Well as Medo-Persia Which Succeeded It**
- III: As Christians, We Look at the State of Affairs in Our Government, and We Say, “Oh My, It Couldn’t Get Much Worse Than This?”**
- > **Immorality and Sexual Perversion Have Reached a Point That Leaves Some of Us in Disbelief, Especially, Those of Us Who Have Been Around a While**

-> **Things are Going Downhill in a Hurry, But Have You Ever Thought About How Bad Things Were in Rome in the First Century?**

**Ex = We Think Racial Discrimination is a Problem; But Listen, Slavery Flourished in the Roman Empire, in Fact, There Were Over Six Million of Them**

-> **If Paul Had Wanted to Take Over Rome, He Probably Could Have Stirred Up the Slaves and Done That**

-> **A Slave in the Roman Empire Was Treated Like a Piece of Property, and His Master Could Put Him to Death on a Whim With no Consequences**

**Ex = We Have the Problem of Abortion, But They Had Widespread Infanticide**

-> **Every Roman Father Exercised the Right of Life or Death Over His Children; and So, if He Put His Thumb Down, That Baby Would be Exposed (& BTW...)**

**Ex = It Wasn't Hard for Any Person to Indulge Their Sexual Appetites, Because There Were Pagan Temples and Temple Prostitutes in Every Major City, and Prostitution Was Completely Legal**

-> **A Roman Man Wasn't Even Expected to be Moral; He Had a Wife Who Raised His Legitimate Children, and He Had as Many Mistresses as He Wanted**

**Ex = Caesar Had Absolute Control Over Life and Death and Everything Else, and His Taxes Were Incredibly Oppressive (Elaborate = The Holy Family)**

**Ex = Others Under Caesar Also Had the Power Over Life & Death; Herod the Great, for Example, Ordered All of the Jewish Boys Two Years of Age and Under to be Put to Death, and Their Mama Couldn't do a Thing About It**

**Pt = This Was the Government That Was in Place When Paul Said, "*Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities...*" (Elaborate = Nero)**

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**T.S. I. We Should be Submissive to the Authority of Government**

**II. We Should be Aware of the Responsibility of Government**

**1) It's Commission**

*vs 3-4 (Read)*

-> The Greek Word for “*Servant*” That Appears in *Verse 4* is the Word “*Diakonos*” From Which We Get the Word “*Deacon*”

-> It Can be Translated as “*Servant*” as It is Here or as the Word “*Minister*”

-> It Might Seem Strange to Think of Our Political Leaders as “*Servants*” or “*Ministers*”, But This is the Way They are Referred to in the Bible

Q.n = And Besides: the Leading Public Official in Great Britain is Called What?

Ans = The Prime MINISTER of Great Britain

-> We Also Call Our Elected Officials Public Servants Because This is What They are Supposed to be

-> The Primary Reason God Established the Institution of Gov.t Was to Provide Justice and Protection for It’s Citizens (Repeat)

-> There are Other Things That Our Government Should be Doing to Help Make Our Lives Better, But This is the Main One

-> The Institution of Government Was Established by God Immediately After the Flood, and It’s First Purpose Was to Enforce Capital Punishment Against Any Human Being Who Murdered Another Human Being

-> This Was the Command Given in *Gen 9:6*; It Says “*Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.*”

-> The Government Has Other Responsibilities and Objectives, But the Main One Involves Protecting It’s Citizens

-> This is What the Word “*Sword*” is Referring to Here; the Gov.t Has the Right to Use Force Even to the Extent of Capital Punishment

-> And That Can Refer to a 9mm That a Policeman Has on His Hip or a Howitzer That is Manned by an Army Sergeant

-> God Has Given Us Our Military to Protect Us, and I am Thankful for That  
St = Our Government Has Also Been Given the Task of Enforcing Justice, and I Think We Could Learn Some Things About This From the Law of Moses

a. The Law of Moses Was Designed to Enforce Justice

-> The “*Lex Talionis*,” Which is the Latin Phrase That Refers to the O.T. Law of Retaliation “*An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth*” Was Actually Designed to Place Some Restraints on Vengeance

-> The Justice for a Capital Crime Was Given Some Limits, and It Eliminated Vigilante Justice. AND It Was to be Carried Out by the Civil Authorities

**b. The Law of Moses Was Designed to be a Deterrent**

-> This is Found in Numerous Places in the Old Testament; in *Deut 13:10-11*, for Example, It is Found in Reference to the Sin of Idolatry; It Says,

*“10 So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, ...11 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.”*

-> The Nation of Israel Was a Theocracy; and So, Idol Worship Was a Capital Crime, and the Punishment for It Was Intended to be a Deterrent

**c. The Law of Moses Was Designed to be Swift**

-> In *Deut 25:2*, We Read *“then it shall be if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of stripes according to his guilt.”*

-> It Happened Right Then and There; Justice, According to the Law of Moses, Was Never Delayed

-> And Listen, if This is the Way Justice Was Carried Out in Our Country, I Can Promise You That We Would See a Dramatic Decrease in Crime

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**T.S. 1) It's Commission**

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**2) It's Consideration**

-> We are Also Told in *Verse 4* That the Government is a Minister Sent From God to do Good; and According to *Verse 3*, It is to Reward What is Good

-> Under the Old Testament System, God Also Put a Welfare System Together to Help the Poor, and One Great Example of That Was the Law of Gleaning

-> In *Lev 19:9-10*, Moses Gave the Israelites This Command; He Said, *“9 Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your*

*field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God."*

- > **The Law of Gleaning Was Designed to Help the Poor, But I Think We Should Take Note of the Fact That It Wasn't a Handout**
- > **Those Who Were Poor Had to Work to Make a Living, But a System Was Set in Place That Allowed Them to do That**
- > **We Benefit From Our Government in More Ways Than We Realize; Our Gov.t Provides Us With Things Like: Paved Roads, and Public Parks, and State Parks, and National Parks, and Unemployment Benefits and Education Incentives**
- > **Unfortunately, Government Leaders Can Sometimes Exploit People for Their Own Ends, or They Can Overstep Their Boundaries, a Popular Phrase We Hear Today is "Government Overreach", and This Can Certainly Occur**
- > **And This is Why I Prefer to Have Government Leaders Who Seek to Limit the Size of Government**
- > **In Fact, I Like This Quote That Comes From Abraham Lincoln; He Said,**

*"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do for themselves in their separate individual capacities. But in all that people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere."*

- > **I Don't Think We Need the Government to Micromanage Our Lives (Witness?)**
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**T.S. I. We Should be Submissive to the Authority of Government**

**II. We Should be Aware of the Responsibility of Government**

**III. We Should be Committed to the Stability of Government**

**1) Our Customs**

*vs 7 (Read)*

- > **The Word "Customs" is Used Here to Refer to Taxes, and the Bible Says That We are to Pay Taxes in Order to Support Our Government**
- > **As Most of Us Know, Jesus Taught Us to do This; and When the Pharisees Came With Some Herodians to Put Jesus to the Test, He Gave Them a Classic Response**

- > **And Listen, There Could Hardly Have Been Two More Incompatible Groups Than the Herodians and the Pharisees**
- > **The Herodians Were a Political Party Filled With Roman Sympathizers While the Pharisees Were an Ultra Conservative Religious Sect**
- > **The Pharisees Wanted Them There, Because They Wanted Them to go Report to the Romans What They Hoped Jesus Would Say About Paying Taxes**
- > **First, They Flattered Jesus; Then They Said, "Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" (Matt 22:17)**
- > **They Thought They Had Pinned Jesus Down on the Horns of a Dilemma; if He Said "No," He Would Have Been Branded as a Traitor, and the Herodians Would Have Quickly Gone and Reported This to Caesar**
- > **On the Other Hand, if Jesus Had Said "Yes", He Would Have Been Branded as a Roman Sympathizer, and His Ministry Would Have Been Discredited**
- > **Instead, Jesus Gave Them This Classic Answer That is Recorded for Us in Matt 22:19-21; He Said "19 Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax." and they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' 21 They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.'"**

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**III: After the Fall of Rome, Everything Became Chaotic and History Regressed, so Much so, That We Refer to This Era of Time as "The Dark Ages" (Primitive)**

- > **And This Teaches Us That as Bad as the Roman Empire Was With It's High Taxes and Government Excesses What Came After That Was Far Worse**
- St = Taxes Can Have Some Positive Benefits, and the First Biblical Record of an Income Tax Was Designed by Our Lord and Implemented by Joseph**
- > **The Problem, as You Might Recall, is That They Were Going to Have Seven Years of Plenty Followed by Seven Years of Famine**
  - > **And So, the Pharaoh Made Joseph the Prime Minister of Egypt, and Joseph Had to Come Up With a Plan to Save Egypt and the Entire World From Starvation**
  - > **He Decided to Use an Income Tax; the Tax Rate Was One Fifth or 20%; and in Gen 47:24-26, We are Told How It Became the Law of the Land**
  - > **The People Had to Essentially Give Their Land to Pharaoh in Order to Purchase Seeds and Grain; and Then, the Pharaoh Gave Their Land Back to Them**

With One Perpetual Stipulation, and This Was It; Joseph Said,

*“24 At the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones.’ 24 So they said, ‘You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh’s slaves.’ 26 Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh’s.”*

Q.n = The Pharaoh Required “Twenty Percent”, and Did They Complain About It?

Ans = No, They Thanked the Pharaoh and Joseph for Saving Their Lives

- > I Find That to be Interesting, Because “Twenty Percent” is the Tax Rate for Most Middle Income Americans Today
- > But Then, of Course, We Also Have Sales Taxes, and Property Taxes, and School Taxes, and Payroll Taxes, and Capital Gain Taxes, and Inheritance Taxes, and Gift Taxes, and Vehicle Taxes, and Toll Road Taxes, and Excise Taxes on: Gasoline, & Alcohol, & Cigarettes, & Firearms, & Ammunition, & Cell Phones, & Fishing Equipment, & Airline Tickets, & Health Insurance, and Our TVs & Our DVRs & Indoor Tanning Booths
- > I Don’t Know How Indoor Tanning Booths Got on That List, But I Don’t Use Them; So, That Tax Doesn’t Affect Me
- > I am in Favor of Reducing Taxes, as I Think Most American are, But the Bottom Line is That We are Commanded in the Scriptures to Pay Them

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T.S. 1) Our Customs

2) Our Courtesy

- > Paul Concludes His Remarks on Government by Saying That We Should Give “Fear” or “Reverence” to Whom “Reverence” is Due and Honor to Whom Honor is Due
- > David, When He Was in the Cave of Adullam Had an Opportunity to Take the Life of King Saul, Because Saul Was Temporarily Blinded (Elaborate)
- > King Saul Had Tried to Kill David Numerous Times; But Nevertheless, David Did Not Kill King Saul, Instead, He Just Cut Off a Piece of His Robe
- > And After He Did That, the Bible Says That David’s Conscience Bothered Him and He Said to His Men “...far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this to my lord, the LORD’s anointed...” (1 Sam 24:6)

- > **King Saul Did Not Deserve to be Given That Kind of Respect, But David Gave Him That Kind of Respect Because of the Office That He Held**
  - > **Even the Old Testament Prophets, Who Confronted Kings and Rulers About the Need for Social Justice and Holy Living, Showed Honor and Respect to Them**
  - > **Elijah, for Example, Confronted King Ahab and Jezebel, Because They Were Leading the Nation Away From God and Into Idol Worship**
  - > **But After Confronting the False Prophets of Baal and Asherah on Mount Carmel, the Prophet Elijah Prayed for Rain**
  - > **The Rain Came, and the Bible Says “Then the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel” (1 Kings 18:46)**
  - > **Running Ahead of Ahab’s Chariot Was a Way of Showing Honor and Respect to the King (Ahab Was a Wicked King, But Elijah Gave Him Honor and Respect)**
  - > **It is Really Simple and Appropriate for Us to Apply This in a Practical Way by Expressing Gratitude to People Like Our Police Officers Who Put Their Lives on the Line for Us**
  - > **You Won’t Hear Me Saying Anything Negative About Our Police or Our First Responders; Instead, You Will Hear Me Expressing Gratitude to Them as Often as I Can, Because I Know That They Put Their Lives on the Line for Us**
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**Invitation:**

- > **In Closing, I Want to Say Again That What I am Most Thankful for in Regards to Our Government is the Freedom That I Have to Proclaim the Gospel**
- > **As Long as I Have the Freedom to Propagate My Faith, I Should Not Complain**
- > **I’m Going to do It Anyway, Whether It is Legal or Not, Because This is What I Have Been Called to do**
- > **But It is a True Blessing That I am Able to Share the Gospel Without Any Fear of Being Harrassed, or Fined, or Arrested for Doing So**
- > **And This is the Message That I Want to Get Out, This is the Message That Reveals to Us How We Can be Saved and Inherit Eternal Life**
- > **The Bible Says That We are Saved by Grace Through Faith Alone in Jesus Christ**

- > **The Roman Jailer Fell Down Trembling in Front of Paul and Silas and Asked Them “*What Must I do to be Saved?*” (Acts 16:30)**
- > **And Paul and Silas Answered I Believe in Unison “*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...*” (Acts 16:31)**
- > **They Didn’t Say “*Believe in the Lord Jesus and do Some Good Works*” or “*Believe in the Lord Jesus and Join a Church*” or Even “*Believe in the Lord Jesus and be Baptized*”**
- > **They Simply Said “*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...*”**
- > **Acknowledge That You Have Sinned, Repent of Your Sins, Believe in Jesus as the Divine Son of God Who Died to Make an Atonement for Our Sins, and He Was Buried and Rose Again on the Third Day**
- > **Believe in Him, and This is Important, Accept Him as Your Personal Lord and Savior**