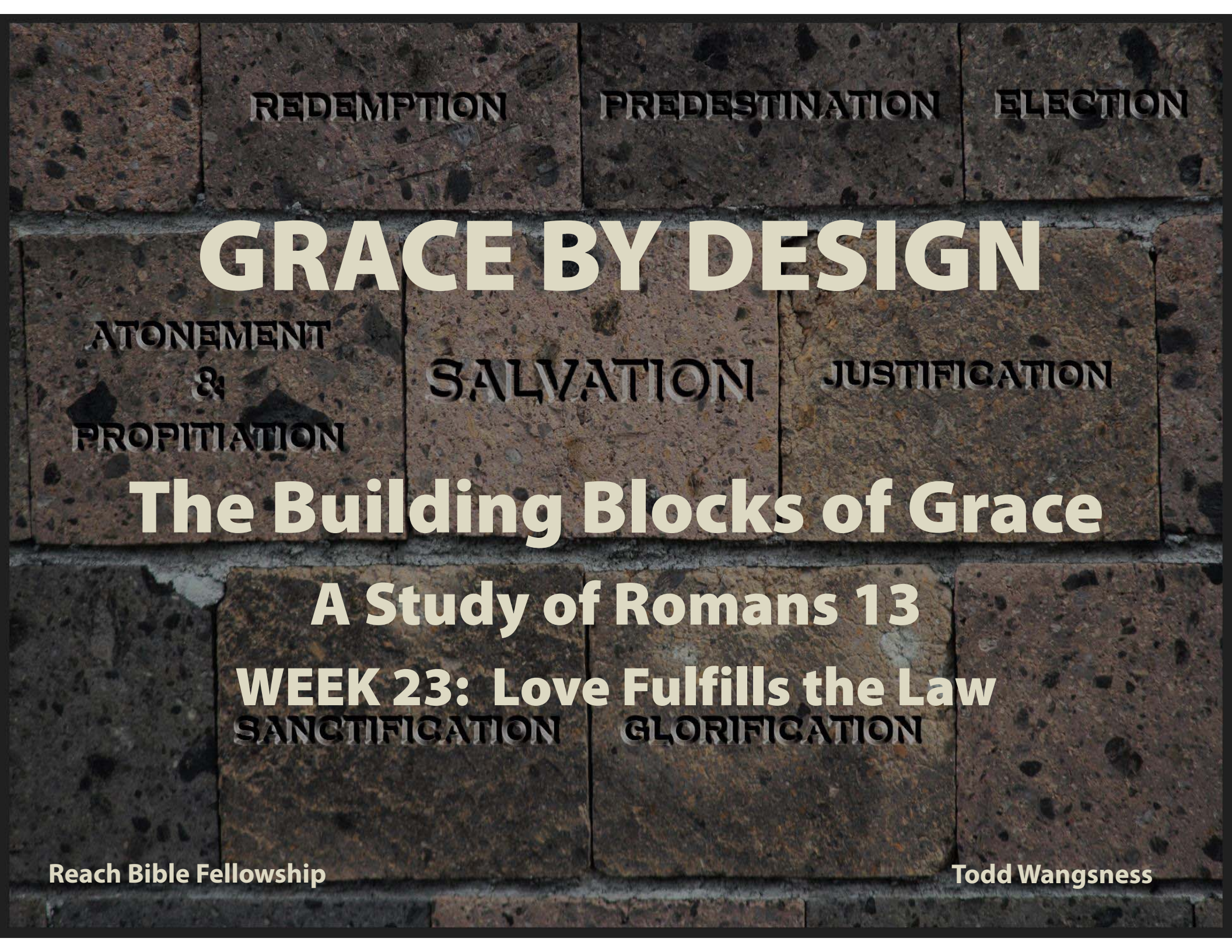

REDEMPTION
PREDESTINATION
ELECTION
GRACE BY DESIGN
ATONEMENT & PROPITIATION
SALVATION
JUSTIFICATION
The Building Blocks of Grace
A Study of Romans 13
WEEK 23: Love Fulfills the Law
SANCTIFICATION
GLORIFICATION
Reach Bible Fellowship
Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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Notable quotes on Romans Chapter 13

"Since God has appointed magistrates and princes for the preservation of mankind, however bad and unjust they may be, they still have their authority from Him; and therefore, those who resist their power resist the ordinance of God. For if there be no power but of God, it follows that every soul ought to be subject to them, because they are appointed by God. But here a question arises: Are we bound to obey unjust and tyrannical magistrates? The answer is that we are not bound to obey them when they command anything contrary to God's law; but in all other things we must obey them, because their power is from God."

- **John Calvin**

"Paul's words in Romans 13:11-14 are a wake-up call to the church. He says, 'The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.' This is a call to spiritual alertness, to live as if Christ could return at any moment. The imagery of putting off the deeds of darkness and putting on the armor of light is vivid and powerful. It's a reminder that the Christian life is not passive but active, requiring us to reject sinful behaviors and clothe ourselves with Christ. This passage is not just about personal holiness but about living with an eternal perspective, knowing that our time is short and our calling is urgent."

- **David Guzik**

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Romans Chapter 13 Overview

- **Verses 1-7: Submission to Governing Authorities**
  - Paul instructs believers to submit to governing authorities, emphasizing that all authority is established by God. Resisting authority, therefore, is resisting God's order, which may lead to judgment.

- **Verses 8-10: Love as the Fulfillment of the Law**
  - Love fulfills the requirements of God's law, as loving one's neighbor covers commandments like "do not commit adultery," "do not murder," "do not steal," and "do not covet."
  - Love does no harm to a neighbor and is the essence of righteous living.

- **Verses 11-14: Living in Light of Christ's Return**
  - Christians should "wake up" from spiritual complacency, casting off sinful behaviors (e.g., drunkenness, sexual immorality, jealousy).
  - Instead, they should "put on the armor of light" and "clothe themselves with the Lord Jesus Christ," living in holiness and avoiding gratification of sinful desires.

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Submission to Governing Authorities

13:1-3 ***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. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 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.***

- ***"For there is no authority except from God , and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."***
  - **Paul says it is God's Will that Believers be subject to governing authorities**
    - ***Dan 4:17 '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.'***
  - **God chooses the ruling authority for blessing, discipline or cursing**

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- *"Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God"*
  - If people resist the government God has appointed, they are resisting the authority of God

- *"And those who resist will bring judgment on themselves."*
  - 'Judgment' does not have an article in front of it
  - Therefore, it is not referring to eternal judgment and condemnation, but to a momentary discipline by God
  - Those who continually resist the authorities whom He has ordained will be punished by the law

- What about the case of evil rulers and dictators (Hitler, Mao Zedung, other corrupt officials)?
  - At what point are we allowed to rebel against those in authority?
  - Answer: We can rebel whenever the authorities are asking the believer to do something that is contrary to the teaching of Scripture
    - In that case, the government has abrogated its responsibility to do good and punish evil, but instead promotes evil in order to destroy that which is good

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13:4-7 ***For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.***

- ***"For he is God's minister to you for good."***
  - **Paul isn't saying that the governing authority has to be a Christian to be "good"**
  - **The ruler is a "minister" (Grk *diakonos*) of God for the purpose of preserving law and order in society**
  - **The purpose of government is to administer justice for the good of all**
- ***"But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister."***
  - **Governmental authorities "bear the sword" for the purpose of discipline and to punish those who are in disobedience to the law**

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- *"Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake."*
  - **Paul presents a moral reason for being in subjection…"for conscience sake"**
- **We're to be subject to the law of the land for two reasons:**
  1. **To avoid the just penalties incurred if we break the law**
  2. **To avoid having our consciences convict us of wrongdoing**

- *"For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing…"*
  - **Believers are to be good citizens … and pay our taxes timely and in full**
  - **We're to respect those in governmental authority over us as God has placed them in positions of responsibility**
  - **However, when the authorities pass mandates that conflict with God's Word, God's Word takes precedence**
    - **E.g., abortion, forbidding churches to meet, LGBTQ+ mandates, etc.**
    - *Acts 5:27-29 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? … 29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."*

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Love as the Fulfillment of the Law

13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

- **Paul shows the motivation of love will naturally cause believers to fulfill the obligations laid upon them by the Scriptures**
- **Believers are to pay back what they owe in a timely and contractually agreed-upon manner**
- **The only debt we should have toward one another in the Body of Christ is our love for one another**
  - *Mat 22:36-39 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the first and great commandment. 39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

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13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- **Paul reiterates the five commands from the 10 Commandments that pertain to human interaction.**
  - *You shall not commit adultery*
  - *You shall not murder*
  - *You shall not steal*
  - *You shall not bear false witness*
  - *You shall not covet*
- **He adds that all of the commands concerning human interaction are summed up as fulfilling the 2nd Great Commandment**
- **And then – he caps it off by saying "*Love is the fulfillment of the Law*"**

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Living in the Light of Christ's Return

13:11-12a ***And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand.***

- **Paul admonishes believers to WAKE UP!**
  - ***1 The 5:4-7 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.***

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13:12b-14 Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- **The nearness of our glorification raises several obligations for us:**
  1. *"Cast off the works of darkness"*
  2. *"Put on the armor of light"*
  3. *"Walk properly"*
  4. *"[Don't walk] in revelry and drunkenness"*
  5. *"[Don't walk] in lewdness and lust"*
  6. *"[Don't walk] in strife and envy"*
  7. *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ"*
  8. *"Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts"*

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- **The believer is to NOT ENGAGE in acts of darkness, but – instead - put on the Armor of Light and prepare for battle!**
  - **This requires an Act of the Will!**
  - **Where do we get our Will to do the things of God? Do we white-knuckle it?**
  - ***Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.***

- **Is it a sin to be tempted?**
  - ***1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.***

- **Jesus was tempted (to the Max!)**
  - ***Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

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- **Let's not deceive ourselves! We are in a VERY REAL BATTLE!**

- **What is the battleground?**
  - **The battle is for our minds and will**
  - **2 Cor 10:3-5** ***"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."***

- **Who is our enemy?**
  - **Eph 6:12** ***For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

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- **How do we fight?**
  - *Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

- **What weapons do we use?**
  - **Eph 6:14-17 God's Armor! Read AND APPLY these verses!**
    - **Truth: Have our waist girded with Truth**
    - **Righteousness: Breastplate of Righteousness**
    - **Gospel of Peace: Having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace**
    - **Faith: Taking the Shield of Faith to quench fiery darts from the wicked one**
    - **Salvation: Put on the helmet of Salvation**
    - **Word of God: Use the Sword of the Spirt which is the Word of God**

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Questions to Ponder

1. Let's consider the Revolutionary War …
   - According to Romans 13, did the Founding Fathers adhere to Paul's admonition?

2. What about subsequent wars?
   - Civil War, WW1, WW2, Vietnam, Gulf War

3. What about claiming Conscientious Objector status? Should we or shouldn't we?

4. What if your government decided they "owned" your 401K or Pension Plan for the common "good"?

5. What if a nation's rulers came into power by illicit/illegal means, i.e., falsifying voter records, assassination, etc.
   - Are we under obligation to submit to a corrupt, illegally obtained rulership?