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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title

THE RULE OF LAW

We are hearing much today, both positive and negative, about the “rule of law.” Some believe that everyone should abide by the laws of our land while others do not. Inspiration declares, “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. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:1-3). That should settle the matter for those who believe the Bible. Christians have an obligation to submit to the “rule of law” with one exception. That exception is stated in the words, “We ought to obey God, rather than men” (Acts 5:29). God has a law too which takes priority over any law men may originate.

Man has always been under law to God. Even in the beginning of man’s existence, God gave the first man and woman His rule of law which they violated (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1ff). The result of violating God’s spiritual law was sin, i.e. spiritual death (Gen 3:22; Romans 5:12; 6:23). God gave His chosen people Israel the rule of law.” This law is called in the Bible both “the Law of god” and the “Law of Moses.” (Joshua 8:31; 24:26; Nehemiah 8:1, 8). God’s people often violated God’s rule of law and suffered the consequences for their sins.

Do we live under a spiritual “rule of law” today? The answer is clearly yes. When Jesus died He nailed the old Law of God to His cross and established a new spiritual law called the New Testament or the New Covenant of which Jesus is the Mediator (Colossians 2:14-16; Hebrews 8:8-12; 9:15; 12:24). This new “rule of law” was prophesied in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-32). It is fulfilled in the New Testament (Hebrews 8:8-13). It is called the “law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2) and “law of faith” (Romans 3:27). Just as was true under previous spiritual laws, one who disobeys God’s “rule of law” in the New testament sins and will suffer the consequences (1 John 3:4; Romans 6:23).

While the rule of civil law is given for the good and protection of the citizens of a nation, God’s spiritual rule of law is given for the spiritual good and protection of all people. It is designed to provide the necessary information and direction to keep us from spiritual harm and to save our souls in eternity. Romans 8:1-2 reads, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” Let us abide by the “rule of law” both in the civil and in the spiritual realm. This will please God and give us the hope of heaven.