

(1) Obedience. Vers. 1, 2. To defy authority seems to some people rather a grand thing. But what does Paul tell us? "He that resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God." Peter, in his epistle, enforces the same thing, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." A Christian should be a loyal subject, and obedient servant. To repudiate the debt of obedience is dishonest.

(2) Honor. Ver. 7. Many young people fancy they show their superiority by giving respect to no one. But if God has placed any person over me, to that person I owe a debt of honor, and of that fear which desires and seeks not to offend. To repudiate this is dishonest.

(3) Tribute. Ver. 6. The tribute paid in Paul's day must have often been vexatious. Yet the principle of it was a right one. If we desire the protection and comforts of civilized life, we must do our part toward supplying the necessary means. Taxes and rates are a debt which we fairly owe. To evade them would be dishonest. The Christian must render to all their dues.

But there is one debt we can never pay off. The great debt of love, which each owes to each, must go on. It would be a dreadful thing to pay down one's silver and gold day by day, and yet never succeed in paying off a debt of money. But the debt of love is sweet in the paying, and sweet in the owing. Whoever has the spirit of Christ will always have something to pay with, and yet will go on and on, and never clear off the debt. He will never say, "I have done enough for my neighbor." For the debt of love is not only what we owe one another, but is part of what we owe to Him who "loved us and gave himself for us." And this debt is eternal.

### BEREAN METHODS.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Begin by a picture or map of Rome; a mention of the ruling emperor, Nero; or of the crown-jewels in the Tower of London, as symbols of government. This will introduce the subject of the lesson. . . . Why this subject needed to be discussed in this epistle. (See General Statement.) . . . Why does it especially need to be set forth now in this year 1884? . . . What are here named as the principles of the relation between Church and State? (See Additional Practical Lessons.) . . . The duties of the Christian to the State. (See Analytical and Biblical Outline.) . . . Against what are we here warned? 1. Rebellion; 2. Resistance to authority; 3. Evil conduct; 4. Disrespect for authority; 5. Sel-

fish views of life. . . . ILLUSTRATIONS. When General Grant, during the American war, was at Fortress Monroe, he walked out on a wharf, smoking. A colored soldier on guard stepped up, saluted him, and said, "General, de orders is dat nobody can't smoke on dis wharf." "Very good orders," said the general, as he threw away his cigar. The one who obeys is the one who can command. . . . General Havelock, in India, was widely known as the Christian soldier, and he influenced many under his command to follow his example. When a dangerous attack was to be made, the commanding general was wont to say, "We need Havelock and his saints for this, for they can be depended on."

**References.** FOSTER'S ILLUSTRATIONS. Ver. 1: Poetical, 2809, 6632. Ver. 2: Prose, 2648, 6633. Ver. 3: Poetical, 1186, 9170. Ver. 4: Poetical, 1565, 10710. Ver. 5: Prose, 2810, 4157. Ver. 6: Prose, 9164, 10040. Ver. 7: Poetical, 1849, 8196. Ver. 8: Prose, 7896. Ver. 9: Prose, 10723. Ver. 10: Prose, 1717, 9211.

#### Primary and Intermediate.

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**LESSON THOUGHT.** *God's Law says, Obey.* To be taught: That God is the great Ruler; that there are lesser rulers whom we must obey; that obedience to our rulers is obedience to God.

1. Show a paper crown, or sceptre, anything that suggests royalty. Talk a little about kings, their power, etc. Tell that sometimes kings meet in council. Tell story of Alexander, his great power and his great fall. He forgot that there was a Ruler greater than himself. Tell that the wisest kings make mistakes, suffer defeat, and die. When God lays his hand upon the mightiest king, he becomes as weak as the poorest and humblest. God, then, is the great Ruler, for all lives are in his hands.

2. Make several steps, and ask whose name shall be placed on the highest. Yes, the name of God, for he is "God over all." Talk about earthly rulers, law-makers, ministers, teachers, and parents. Show that these are rulers under God. Read verses 1 and 2, and put into simple language that the children may understand. Tell story of little girl who had been taught this lesson, and who disobeyed her teacher one day. When she thought it over she was troubled, for she said, "I didn't mind God." "Pshaw!" said her brother Freddy, "your teacher isn't God." "But God tells me to mind my teacher," said Mary. Was she right?

3. Ask how many children have some one in authority over them. Let a few tell whom they have to obey. Talk about the