

Sovereign, but from the fact that the hearts of all men are in the hands of God, and that the surest means for the preservation of a good ruler, or the reformation of a bad one is prayer to the Most High. The God who rules the universe, and yet answers the cry of the most humble, would be a much better arbiter than the sword in the settlement of all national disputes. And remember also, that, in the words above quoted, the apostle is addressing not ministers, but private christians; therefore if the minister who neglects to pray in the pulpit for the Civil Rulers of his country, is blameable, the private christian is no less so who neglects the same duty in his closet, or at his family altar.

3.—Another duty which is due by the subject to the civil government is the *payment of custom, tribute, or taxes*. Perhaps I cannot do better on this point than by quoting the words of the sainted Richard Baxter:—"Murmur not at the payment of these necessary tributes, by which the common safety must be preserved. Sordid covetousness has been the ruin of many a commonwealth. When every one is shifting for himself, and saving his own, and murmuring at the charges by which their safety must be defended,—this selfishness is the most pernicious enemy to the government and the common good. Tribute and honor must be paid to whom it doth belong. 'For they are God's ministers attending continually on this very thing.' And none of your goods or cabins will be saved, if by your covetousness the ship should perish." The doctrine of the apostle, "render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom;" is but an echo to the words of the Master, "Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's, and unto God the things which be God's."—Luke xx., 25.

4.—Passing from the consideration of those which may be regarded, in some sort, as minor duties, the next which claims our attention is that of *subjection*.—a cheerful and uniform submission to the Chief/Magistrate, and, of course, to all who derive their just powers from him. "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers," is the doctrine of the text, and it