

“Wine and Milk (7): Can God Rig an Election?”

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Romans 13:1-7

- ▼ Paul speaks of “governing authorities,” not _____ .
- ▼ Art Lindsley: “We have infallible absolutes in Scripture, but we encounter fallen situations that are so complex that it is difficult to know which way to go. This is particularly the case with _____ . In some debates believers honestly differ on the best course to take, and it is difficult to say which position is better. In other cases the more principles are clear but the matter of getting a law through the political process dilutes its purity. . . . How do we deal with agonizing circumstances where various absolutes seem to conflict and where we need to settle for _____ than we want?” (*True Truth: Defending Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World* 70)
- ▼ God has established human government to defend _____ and _____ in human society.
- ▼ Paul’s point: “The state is a divine _____ with divine _____ .” (Stott)
- ▼ John R. W. Stott: “[Paul] cannot be taken to mean that all the Caligulas, Herods, Neros and Domitians of New Testament times, and all the Hitlers, Stalins, Amins and Saddams of our times, were personally appointed by God, that God is responsible for their behaviour, or that their authority is in no circumstance to be resisted. Paul means rather that all human authority is _____ from God’s authority, so that we can say to rulers what Jesus said to Pilate, ‘You would have no power [*exousia*, authority] over me if it were not given to you from above.’” (*Romans* 340)
- ▼ Revelation 13:5, 7, 14, 15—Proof enough that even the _____ himself operates upon this earth with a very _____ authority from God.
- ▼ How then shall we vote?



Three guiding principles (Romans 13) to vote your deepest convictions and your Adventist Christian conscience:

- ▼ Principle #1—Recognize God’s _____ .
 - Daniel 2:19-22.

- Daniel 4:17, 25, 32
- Proverbs 8:15, 16
- Psalm 75:7

- *Ministry of Healing* 417: “Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.”
- *Prophets and Kings* 499, 500: “In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”

▼ Principle #2—Remember our _____ .

- Daniel 3:16-18.
- The guiding principle for Seventh-day Adventist Christian civil disobedience: Acts 5:29—“We ought to obey _____ rather than _____.”
- Jesus to Pilate: “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36)

▼ Principle #3—Render your _____ .

- F. F. Bruce: “Christians will voice their _____ to Caesar’s unauthorized demands the more effectively if they have shown themselves ready to say _____ to all his authorized demands.” (*Romans* 234)
- Luke 20:20 and 25.
- So what belongs to Caesar?
 - Your _____ to keep government functioning.
 - Your _____ to keep government filled.
 - Your _____ to keep government faithful.
- I Timothy 2:1-4.

“Watch . . . and pray . . . and vote”

political parties, politics, less, law, order, institution, authority, derived, devil, derived, sovereignty, priority, God, man, responsibility,
'No', 'Yes', taxes, votes, prayers