



GOD IS IN CONTROL

**The Lord controls rulers,
just as He determines
the course of a river.**

Proverbs 21:1

Today

**26TH
SEPTEMBER
2021**

10am - Worship

Speaker - Tony Burgum

Series: The Gospel Message of Romans

Study 32: Subject To Authorities - Romans 13:1-7

Service can be viewed on the Church Website ftgbc.org.au

*Let every soul be subject to the government authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities
that exist are appointed by God.* Romans 13:1

A Word From Tony

Being Subject to Authorities

In Romans 12, Paul described what it meant for believers to be a living-sacrifice. In short, it mostly has to do with setting ourselves aside to serve the Lord, each other, and even our enemies in love.

Then in Chapter 13, Paul turns to the issue of how Christians who are saved by God's grace should interact with our present governments. He describes the biblical doctrine of being subject to human authorities, something Peter also teaches (1 Peter 2:13–17). Again, those in Christ are called to set themselves aside and to trust God to provide some of our practical needs through those in authority.

Paul is clear that this applies to every person, “every soul”. He calls for us to be subject to government authorities, though he does not say that we must obey them in all cases. Paul and the other apostles refused to obey commands from people in authority to stop preaching the gospel, for instance (Acts 5:27–29). They did, however, submit to those in authority in all matters that were not in contradiction to the will of God.

Why should we be subject to authorities? Paul is clear: All authorities have been established by God. This would include, of course, good leaders, evil leaders, and everyone in-between. Paul's instruction here, then, is not about blind nationalism or absolute obedience to men. Rather, it is a recognition that human government, in general, is a legitimate authority, and that Christians cannot use their faith as an excuse for civil lawlessness.

And before we start to complain, we should remember that Paul is writing this letter to Christians in Rome. The government of Rome ruled much of the known world at the time. It was led by the Emperor Nero who was famous for his cruel and unfair treatment of Christians, among other groups. We must not assume that Paul is writing these words lightly. He was aware of the implications of his teaching.



Don't forget to put your clock FORWARD
1 hour next Sunday morning

What's On This Week

Due to COVID lockdown, all ministry and meetings have been suspended including home groups in private homes or at the Church.

Next Sunday

3rd October Worship & Lord's Supper

Guest Speaker – Bill Morrison

Bill and his wife spent 12 years with GIA in the Northern Territory working with remote communities

Returning To Face-to-Face Meetings

The message last Sunday was in relation to being careful not to create divisions with regard to disputable matters. As such, with regard to vaccines Yes or No, the Elders and Pastor are very aware that the current 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' includes release from restrictions differently for those vaccinated and unvaccinated.

As such, please be aware that discussions are taking place and considerations made as to how this could possibly affect us at FTG. Stay tuned for further details as we get nearer to the point of being able to again meet face to face.

In the meantime, please keep the leadership team in prayer as they deliberate on this issue but also, pray for the BUV as it advocates with the Vic Government regarding the impact of the possible different vaccine status. Pastor Tony

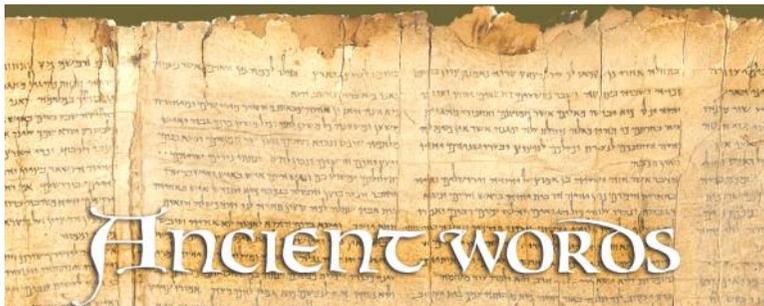


If you wish to do a bank transfer into the Church bank Account the details are:

ANZ - Ferntree Gully
Baptist Church

BSB: 013278

Account: 296710027



*Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.
Words of Life, words of Hope Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.
Ancient words ever true Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words of our Faith Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.
Ancient words ever true Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Songwriter: Lynn Deshazo

Pastoral Availability

During lockdown
Pastor Tony is
restricted in visiting
but he can be
contacted on
0406 686715.

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

FERNTREE GULLY BAPTIST CHURCH

Series: The Gospel Message of Romans

Study 32: Subject To Authorities - Romans 13:1-7

Introduction

. Exhortation to be Subject - Romans 13:1-5

To be Subject Acknowledges God's Authority

To be Subject Avoids Punishment of Wrong Doers

To be Subject Provides a clear Conscience

. Examples of Subjection – Romans 13:6-7

Subject by Paying Taxes

Subject by Giving Proper Respect

. Exceptions to Subjection

Matters of Worship

Matters of Witness

Matters of Morality



The Privilege of Prayer

Please pray for the people putting together the Belgrave Heights Women's Convention coming up in October and all the work required moving it on-line. Pray also for the speakers and elective leaders as they prepare their talks around the theme of 'Encounters With Jesus'

Continue to pray for Joy Davis who has been diagnosed with a probable crack in her sternum. This has put back Joy's exercise program aimed at helping her gain more mobility.

Continue praying for our Government's (1 Timothy 2:1-2) to be making wise decisions and especially caring for those in need and vulnerable. Also, to make wise and fair decisions about releasing from lockdowns.

Continue to uphold those in prayer from our Church family who are struggling with the ongoing lockdowns including people like Hubert and Iris Z, Margaret K, Annamarie O, Hannalore T and others.

Please pray for Teresa in palliative care that she will have opportunity to see her one year old granddaughter. Pray too for awareness of God's presence, love and care for Teresa and her family and friends.

Pray for some of our local Baptist Churches and Pastors:

Wandin Baptist: Pray for Pastor Darrell who has put in his resignation from Wandin Baptist Church effective the 29th November. Pray for Wandin Baptist as they seek an Interim Pastor.

Mooroolbark Baptist: Pray for Brent, interim lead Pastor, who is currently trapped in New Zealand after he and his wife travelled to New Zealand mid-July to visit family. They are finding it complicated returning to Australia. Pray also for the Pastoral Search Committee who are currently reviewing applications for the vacant Lead Pastors role.

Upwey Baptist: Pray for Pastor Ted and wife Jenny as they continue to care for their daughter Cathie who was diagnosed with liver cancer three years ago and no further treatment is available.

Ferntree Gully Baptist Church: Pray for the Pastoral Search Committee as they continue ongoing enquiries with regard to an Interim Pastor to commence after Pastor Tony leaves on Sunday 29th November.



Angel Tree – Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship have been running the Angel Tree program for over 30 years in Victoria. This program offers parents in prison a gift to be sent to their child, on their behalf at Christmas time.



This year has been particularly difficult for many incarcerated parents as family visits have been cancelled due to COVID. They expect to have about 1,500 requests for gifts from parents in prison.

The parent completes a form with details of their children and can include a message to the child. We will be given details of children in late November with their name, age and gift suggestions. For the sake of equality, the gifts should be around \$30.

All those who are given contact details of families need to have a Working with Children Check card.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in Angel Tree again this year and the number of gifts you would like to put money toward. I can then advise Prison Fellowship of numbers. Pastor Tony



Encounters with Jesus

Belgrave Heights Women's Convention

Main sessions: Saturday 9th October 9.30am to 3.30pm.

The main speaker will be Helen Bell, who is a senior staff worker at Melbourne Uni Christian Union.

Three electives have also been scheduled for Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th each at 8pm.

Registration is \$25 per household.

For more information and registration, go to the main Belgrave Heights Convention website bhc.org.au.

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