

Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday April 24, 2016

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading - Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

GOD AND GOVERNMENT

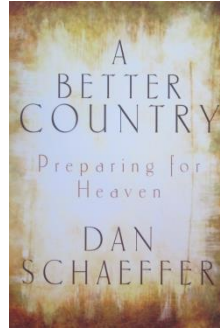
Final Song

Benediction

“If anyone thinks that because he is a Christian he does not have to pay taxes or tribute or show the proper respect to the authorities who take care of these things he is in very great error. Likewise, if anyone thinks that he ought to submit to the point where he accepts that someone who is his superior in temporal affairs should have authority even over his faith, he falls into an even greater error. But the balance which the Lord himself prescribed is to be maintained: *‘Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s but unto God the things that are God’s.’* For although we are called into that kingdom where there will be no power of this world, nevertheless, while we are on the way there... let us put up with our condition for the sake of human affairs, doing nothing falsely and in this very thing obeying God.”

- **St. Augustine (Commentary on Romans)**

Featured in the Rosedale Library:



A Better Country – Preparing for Heaven:
 A book from Discovery House. Based on biblical evidence, this book offers insights about our heavenly desire, the heavenly life, and heavenly preparation showing us that God wants that ‘better country’ to be the passion and purpose of our present life.

Families of the Week

Please remember to pray for and to encourage the following people this week

- Monday** Denis, Gaston & Kim
- Tuesday** Denis, David
- Wednesday** Denis, Esther
- Thursday** Do Carmo, Larissa
- Friday** Doiron, Brenda & Jim
- Saturday** Dube, Normand & Susan

ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place
 Welland, ON L3B 1J2
 905-735-0788
 Pastor: John C. Bellingham

www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com

This Week at Rosedale

Tuesday: Men's Bible Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday: Prayer and Praise – 7:00 pm

Saturday: Men's Bible Study – 8:00 am

Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

Movie Night – 'War Room': From the Kendrick brothers, the award winning creators of 'Fireproof' and 'Courageous' comes a powerful new film that will inspire Christians to fight battles the right way – through prayer! We will be watching 'War Room' here at Rosedale on Friday May 6th at 7:00pm. Bring your families and a friend!

Christian Foundations: We've recently started a new series based on Andrew Murray's classic book 'With Christ in the School of Prayer'. Speak with Pastor Ron if you need a copy of the book.

Junior Church: A new schedule is being made for Junior Church teachers. If y

Open Arms Collection: For the month of April we will be collecting Macaroni and Cheese. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting Open Arms.

God and Government

Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7

I. A Dilemma (vv. 12-14)

- 1) An Unholy Alliance
 - a. Pharisees and Herodians normally didn't get along, but on this mission they were united to 'trap' and destroy Jesus
 - i. Their flattery is an attempt to persuade the crowd that they are honest truth seekers
 - ii. Jesus sees straight through the hypocrisy (cf. Proverbs 27:6, 29:5)
 - b. 'Trap' (v. 1) – rare word in the New Testament carrying image of a hunter capturing an animal
 - i. Chapter 12 is a minefield of deadly 'traps'
 - ii. Jesus skillfully dodges each trap that is set
- 2) A Hot Button Issue – Paying Tax to Rome
 - a. Taxes were a painful and burdensome reminder of Rome's subjugation of Israel
 - b. Taxes were paid with idolatrous coins bearing the image of Emperor Tiberius and an inscription declaring him to be divine and the 'high priest' of Rome
 - c. Taxes had already resulted in an uprising in 6 AD led by Judas the Galilean (founder of the violent, anti-Roman 'Zealots') cf. Acts 5:37
- 3) An Impossible Question (v. 14)
 - a. If Jesus answers 'yes' to the tax question he will be seen as a Roman sympathizer by the crowd
 - b. If He answers 'no' he will be seen as a Jewish revolutionary by the authorities

II. A Distinction (vv. 15-17; Romans 13:1-7)

- 1) Caesar's Sphere of Authority
 - a. Jesus distinguishes between 2 spheres of authority – 1) Caesar's sphere & 2) God's sphere
 - i. 'Render' – to give what is owed
 - ii. Jesus clearly affirms the legitimacy of Civil Government - See also: John 18:36, 19:11

- iii. Disagreement about how these two spheres/kingdoms should relate to each other
- **Segregation of Church from State**
 - Anabaptist 'pacifism' & withdrawal from politics
 - Secularist push to privatize religious expression
 - **Fusion of Church and State**
 - Roman Catholic Church – pope's historic claim to hold supremacy over the Civil Magistrates
 - Protestant 'Erastianism' – Reformers believed that civil government was responsible for maintaining religious/ theological purity → Persecution!
 - 'Moral Majority' – unhealthy tendency in America to wrap the Bible in the flag
 - **Separation of Church and State**
 - Baptist Position – distinct but inter-related spheres
 - Christians can fight in just wars and be involved in civil service. There must be freedom of conscience!
 - Neither sphere should intrude on the other. State has no authority to exercise Church Discipline. Church has no authority to rule over the State.
- b. Christian View of Civil Government (Rom 13:1-7)
 - i. All Civil Authority is Established by God
 - Jesus and Paul are speaking about the Roman Empire which persecuted Christians and Jews
 - Bad government is better than no government
 - ii. Christians are to be subject to Civil Authority
 - To resist/dishonor civil auth. is to resist God
 - Resisting authority normally leads to punishment (power of sword)
 - iii. Civil Disobedience as final Resort – only when man's Law comes into conflict with God's Law
- 2) God's Sphere of Authority
 - a. The coin bears Caesar's image, but humanity bear's God's Image – we belong to our Creator!
 - b. We Christians have the duty and privilege to 'render' ourselves fully to God – Romans 12:1-2
- Application:** "Honour everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor." - 1 Peter 2:17