

1 Peter 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

Analysis

Peter explains governors' divinely ordained role. They are sent "for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well" (eis ekdikēsin kakopoiōn epainon de agathopoiōn). Government maintains order by punishing criminals and commending virtue. This demonstrates God's common grace—using even pagan rulers to restrain evil and promote good. Believers should respect this divine ordering.

Historical Context

Roman government, despite Nero's increasing tyranny, still maintained basic law and order. Paul similarly taught government's divine origin (Romans 13:1-4). Christians weren't anarchists but model citizens, submitting to legitimate authority while refusing to compromise faith (Acts 5:29). Early church distinguished between lawful submission and unlawful worship of emperor as deity.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can you respect governing authorities even when you disagree with their policies or character?
2. What's the difference between civil submission and spiritual compromise regarding ungodly laws?

Interlinear Text

εἴτε	ἡγεμόσιν	ὥς	δι'	αὐτοῦ	πεμπομένοις	εἰς
Or	unto governors	as	by	him	unto them that are sent	for
G1535	G2232	G5613	G1223	G846	G3992	G1519
ἐκδίκησιν	μὲν	κακοποιῶν	ἔπαινον	δὲ	ἀγαθοποιῶν·	
the punishment		of evildoers	for the praise	and	of them that do well	
G1557	G3303	G2555	G1868	G1161	G17	

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