

## **God's Purpose for Government Romans 13:3,4**

1,2, the reason for obeying the government = its divine origin.  
3,4, the reason for obeying the government = its divine purpose.

### **Purpose #1: to offer praise for doing good, 3**

- \*Reassurance = rulers actually promotes good behavior.  
Rulers should provide a good social order, Prov.16:10-12, 20:8.
- \*Rhetorical question: doing good results in praise not fear.

### **Purpose #2: to administer punishment for doing evil, 4**

- \*Warning = evil behavior will invite punishment.
- \*Governing rulers = God's servants (diakonos)! Jer. 25:9.
- \*God's wrath/vengeance (cf.12:19) is accomplished by rulers.
- \*The sword implies violence--including capital punishment.

#### \*Common reasons for rejecting capital punishment:

- It's inhumane, unenlightened and unconstitutional.
- It's unchristian/unforgiving. Jesus said love your enemies.
- OT had CP for numerous sins plus OT exceptions.
- It's unfairly administered and is not a deterrent.
- Innocent people may be executed.
- Our aim should be rehabilitation.

#### \*Convincing reasons for promoting capital punishment:

- Also see Gen. 9:6, Lev. 24:17, Deut. 19:11-13, Acts 25:11.
- It actually does deter murder and protects innocent lives.
- It shows more respect for the victim than the criminal.
- Our aim should be retribution as Scripture teaches.



Mercy but murders,  
pardoning those that kill.

—William Shakespeare