

— ACTS —

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: RITA BAIRD

DATE: OCTOBER 19TH, 2025

Subject to Authorities for the Sake of the Gospel

Acts 23:12-24:27 / Romans 13:1-7

NOTES:

The Context: Paul Navigates Tricky Waters When Dealing With the Government

1. The Plot (23:12-15)

2. The Plot Found Out (23:16-22)

3. The Plot Frustrated (23:23-35)

4. Charges Brought Against Paul (24:1-9)

5. Paul's Defense (24:10-21)

6. The Verdict (24:22-27)

Key Idea: The goal is always the spread of the gospel!

1Tim. 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God's Ordained Plan and Purpose For the Government:

1. God determines and delegates all ruling power for his good purposes.

Rom. 13:1 *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

2. Rebellion against God's delegates is opposition to God's good purposes.

Rom. 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

3. God authorizes government for two reasons:

Rom. 13:3a *For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.*

a. To commend the virtuous

Rom. 13:3b *Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4a for he is God's servant for your good.*

b. To punish the law-breakers

Rom. 13:4b *But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.*

God's Expectation for His People as They Relate to the Government:

Rom. 13:5 *Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1. What do we want the Altamont to be known for amongst the Livermore community? As we continue towards independence what key values should you put into place in order to preserve and promote a reputation that showcases the gospel to your sphere of influence?

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 multiple times this week. And spend time with God presenting "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings" for our government.

SONGS

THE LION AND THE LAMB
AMAZING LOVE (YOU ARE MY KING)
BLESSED ASSURANCE
REIGN ABOVE IT ALL

ALTAMONT PROGRESS REPORT
vbc.online/altamontprg

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$61,987.64
2025 Year to Date Giving: \$1,391,351.21
2025 Giving vs Need: \$227,328.79 Below Need
Altamont Expansion Fund: \$240,464.79
Please refer to this weeks newsletter for the latest budget information or email admin@vbc.online.

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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