

“You decide – is it right for me to obey God or men....”

The year was 1969 and I would be graduating from college. My wife had already graduated and was working as an elementary school teacher. I would follow in those footsteps but as a teacher in the middle school. She had saved enough money for a good down payment on a car. Our transportation situation was extremely poor. We would buy a new car. It would be a 1969 Oldsmobile 442. Hurst four speed shift in the floor, four barrel carburetor, and dual exhaust. Absolutely wonderful automobile. Lights inside the car that would shine on your feet at night. Roomy and fast. I enjoyed driving through a tunnel slowly and hearing the sound of the engine.....dual exhaust. Almost music to my ears. Four years later I would trade the car for a new vehicle. Downsizing and gas mileage became important. Did I mention the car was fast? Speed limits are posted clearly on the highway. But the car was fast. I knew the consequences of speeding. I learned that lesson the hard way on one occasion. I had violated man’s law and was caught. I paid the price. It never happened again.

April is a month of the year that I enjoy, my birthday month. April is a month of the year that I do not enjoy, federal and state income taxes. Neither is optional so I enjoy the former and deal with the latter just like you. My tax man takes care of the taxes and I do what is necessary to keep the federal and state government operating. It may not be enjoyable but it is necessary. I do not want to violate this law of the land. The consequences are more severe and I always beat that deadline.

I am sure it would be possible to go to God’s word and find very particular examples and scripture to justify about any of our ways of thinking. People do it all the time. **His** word was not meant to be complicated or difficult for us. **He** dealt with people daily. **He** often explained the meaning of a story **He** told but it was meant to be thought about to be understood. Dietrich Bonhoeffer would often require his students in the seminary to think about one scripture for a designated amount of time and nothing else until they had their best understanding of what God was trying to say to them. This was so important to him as a teacher that he allotted the time out of his class. Each day, every day they were required to think about a scripture of his choice. I often wonder, have we grown so lazy in our daily lives that we just don’t want to take the time and think? Do we give deep thought to something very important in our lives, such as scripture, that can impact and change our lives for the better?

So I now am faced to deal with the topic of this months writing. Human law and God’s law. But look carefully at the title. “You decide....” I already have decided for myself. Do you ever, like me, have that little voice in your heart speak to you when it comes to important decisions to be made? I do. I truly believe that voice is the Holy Spirit communicating to me about my decision. Not my conscience, but the Holy Spirit. So what do I do? No, the important question is what do you do? Decision time and I have already decided. A little voice from the heart that I hear. I know where that voice comes from as I have already written. I know what I do, but what about you? For me... He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

And you?

Richard Hurt, Retired Classroom Teacher