

should obey his commands. And ~~the~~ Caesar was there to enforce the order and to punish the criminals, and that they should respect the authority of ~~a~~ Caesar.

The Roman oppression, which was a very real and harmful thing, neither Jesus ~~nor~~ nor the ~~apostles~~ apostles said anything about trying to get away from it.

Now, in the Book of Revelation, we have a reflection of the joy of the time when it is going to be ended. We have reflection and praise for the downfall of the Roman oppression. But not a statement in ^{the epistles,} ~~the~~ ~~epistles,~~ not a statement in the Acts to give aid and comfort to an attempt to end this very harmful thing.

Now, to look at something which might be a little more obvious to some of us, the matter of slavery. Slavery was very prominent in ~~the~~ the days of the apostles. They went about through the Roman world, they found that a great part of the population was in slavery. I would not be surprised if three-fourths of the people of Rome were slaves. Compelled to do the will of their master. Under cruel punishments and being killed whenever the master took a notion to kill them. The master was absolute sovereign over the body of his slaves. ~~The slaveholders were sometimes kind to their slaves; sometimes they were very cruel. Their cruelty often was mitigated, of course, by the value of the slave. But, nevertheless, it was a situation which would be very difficult for a person to submit to, and which we all recognize to be utterly contrary to the general principles of the Bible. But, we do not find any statement in the epistles or in the Acts against slavery, any statement of the wickedness of slavery, or any statement of the fact that slaves should try to win their freedom, or even that the master should give them their freedom. Instead, we find in Eph. 6:5-9 and in Col. 3:22ff that the apostles command the slaves to be loyal to their masters, to obey them, and to carry out that which they direct them to do. He says, "slaves, be obedient to them which are your masters according to the flesh which fear and tremble, in singleness of heart, as unto Christ." It was a false and wicked thing, this slavery, but instead of trying to get the social~~ The slaveholders were sometimes kind to their slaves; sometimes they were very cruel. Their cruelty often was mitigated, of course, by the value of the slave. But, nevertheless, it was a situation which would be very difficult for a person to submit to, and which we all recognize to be utterly contrary to the general principles of the Bible. But, we do not find any statement in the epistles or in the Acts against slavery, any statement of the wickedness of slavery, or any statement of the fact that slaves should try to win their freedom, or even that the master should give them their freedom. Instead, we find in Eph. 6:5-9 and in Col. 3:22ff that the apostles command the slaves to be loyal to their masters, to obey them, and to carry out that which they direct them to do. He says, "slaves, be obedient to them which are your masters according to the flesh which fear and tremble, in singleness of heart, as unto Christ." It was a false and wicked thing, this slavery, but instead of trying to get the social