XII. 1-5. ROMANS. ‘115   
   
   
 \_AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 powers that be are or- rity except from God: those that be   
 dained of God. \* Who- have been ordained by God. 2 So   
 sever therefore resisteth that he which setteth himself against   
 the power, resisteth the or- ‘the authority, resisteth the ordinance   
 dinance of God: and they of God: and they that resist shall ¢ Tit.   
 that resist shall receive receive to themselves condemnation.   
 to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to the   
 3 For rulers are not a ter- good work, but to the evil. Dost   
 ror to good works, but to thou desire not to be afraid of the   
 the evil. Wilt thou then authority? ¢do that which is good,   
 not be afraid of the power? and thou shalt have praise from the   
 do that which is good, and same: “for he is God’s minister   
 thou shalt have praise of unto thee for good.. But if thou do a1 Pet, 14,   
 the same: ‘ for he is the that which is evil, be afraid; for he & iii.   
 aminister God to thee for weareth not the sword in vain: for   
 good. But if thou do that he is God’s minister, an avenger for   
 which is evil, be afraid; wrath unto him that’ doeth evil.   
 for he beareth not the   
 sword in vain: for he is   
 the minister of God, a re-   
 venger to execute wrath   
 upon him that doeth evil.   
 % Wherefore ye must needs   
 be subject, not only for 5 Wherefore ‘ye must needs submit execs. viti.2.   
   
   
 that be (the existing powers which we see the civil power. 3.] And the tendency   
 about us), have been ordained by God. of these powers is salutary: to encourage   
 We may observe that the Apostle here ‘luck works, and discourage evil. token   
 pays no regard to the question of the that the Apostle wrote the Epistle before   
 duty of Christians in revolutionary move- the commencement of the Neronian per-   
 ments. His precepts regard an established secution. Had this been otherwise, the   
 power, be it what it may. J¢, in all principle stated by him would have been   
 lawful, we ave bound to obey. But even the same: but he could hardly have passed   
 the parental power does not extend to so apparent an exception to it without   
 things unlawful. If the civil power com- remark. 4.] the sword, perhaps   
 mands us to violate the law of God, we in allusion to the dagger worn by the   
 must obey God before man. If it com- Cesars, which was regarded as a symbol   
 mands us to disobey the common laws of the power of life and death. In ancient   
 of humanity, or the sacred institutions and modern times, the sword has been car-   
 of our country, our obedience is due to ried before sovereigns. It betokens the   
 the higher and more general law, rather power of capital punishment: and the rée-   
 than to the lower and particular. These ference to it here is among the many tes-   
 distinctions must be drawn by the wisdom timonies borne by Scripture against the   
 granted to Christians in the varying cir- attempt to abolish the infliction of the   
 cumstances of human affairs: they are all penalty of death for crime in Christian   
 only subordinate portions of the great states. for wrath seems to’be inserted   
 duty of obedience to uaw. ‘To obtain, by for the sake of parallelisin “for good”   
 lawful means, the removal or alteration of above: it betokens the character of the   
 an unjust or unreasonable law, is another yengeance,—that it issues in wrath. The   
 part of this for all authorities wrath is referred to in wrath,” ver. 5.   
 men must be in accord with the highest 5.] Wherefore, because of the divine   
 authority, the moral sense. But even where appointment and mission of the civil   
 Jaw is hard and unreasonable, not disobedi- ye must needs submit yourselves—   
 ence, but legitimate protest, is duty of there is a moral necessity for subjection: —   
 the Christian. 2.] shall receive to one not only of terror, but of conscience:   
 themselves condemnation, viz. punish- compare “for the Lord’s sake,” 1 Pets ii.   
 ment from God, through His minister,