24 Chapter 4

## The Law of Man

The Scripture reveals God's plan for civil government. Romans 13 teaches that civil government should protect those who do good and punish those who do evil.

Can man's laws be based upon the Bible? For civil government to fulfill its responsibility, according to the Bible, two questions must be answered. What good should be protected? What evil should be punished?

God's law provides the answer to those questions. The law should protect the individual's right to obey the first four commandments — his duty to God. Each person must have the liberty to worship God according to his own conscience.

The last six of the ten commandments protect individual

life, liberty and property. Based upon God's law, man's law should also protect each individual's life, liberty and property.

If a person harms or endangers another, civil government should punish him. If someone steals his neighbor's property, he must be held responsible. If a man takes the life of another, he should suffer the consequences identified in God's law.

God's law is the guide for man's law — to protect those who do good and to punish the evildoers.

Every generation in every nation must choose whether or not they will follow the law of God as individuals and as a nation. Those who follow God's law will enjoy the greatest liberty known to mankind.

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws."

Noah Webster<sup>10</sup>