**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*Romans Series - Chapter 13*

***The People Are God’s Good Government***

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

November 10th In the Year of Our Lord 2019

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS text is quoted)

**Review from Romans 12 –**

**The text of Romans 12**

**Romans 12:1** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,

to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,

acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

that you may prove what the will of God is,

that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me

I say to every man among you

not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think;

but to think so as to have sound judgment,

as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

4 For just as we have many members in one body

and all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,

and individually members one of another.

6 And since we have gifts that differ

according to the grace given to us,

*let each exercise them accordingly*:

if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

7 if service, in his serving;

or he who teaches, in his teaching;

8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation;

he who gives, with liberality;

he who leads, with diligence;

he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;

give preference to one another in honor;

11 not lagging behind in diligence,

fervent in spirit,

serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope,

persevering in tribulation,

devoted to prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints,

practicing hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you;

bless and curse not.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice,

and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another;

do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.

Do not be wise in your own estimation.

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.

Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved,

but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written,

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him,

and if he is thirsty, give him a drink;

for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**We read Romans 12 and may ask the questions:**

**How do we live the life Paul describes?**

**How do we live the saintly life?**

In three Gospels, Jesus says:

Matthew 19:26 And looking upon *them* Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mark 10:27 Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

Luke 18:27 But He said, "The things impossible with men are possible with God."

In other words, the life to which the Believer is called is impossible without God.

Jesus even calls us to be perfect.

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matthew 5:48**

**Perfect: Strong’s 5046; Greek τέλειος** (teleios)

**Meaning:** having reached its end, i.e. *complete,* by ext. *perfect*

**Origin:** from 5056 **Usage:** complete(2), mature(4), more perfect(1), perfect(12). **Notes:** Lev. 19:2; Deut. 18:13; 2 Cor. 7:1; Phil. 3:12-15

Obviously, on our own, we cannot live perfect lives. We can stand before God with Jesus Christ as our Mediator, who paid the price for our sins, and be perfect. Remember, God so loved the world that He gave/sent His Son and whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Mediator: 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24

We do not want people to think that you have to go through the God-Jesus to get to the God the Father. There are not two Gods. God is not limited in form, time, energy or being. God projected himself through the incarnation as Jesus the Son for our saving-benefit. The Word is God (John 1:1) that became flesh (John 1:1-14). God is not limited to staying in Heaven. God can manifest himself as a person and be in multiple places at one time. This is called omnipresence. Thus, Jesus is God in the flesh. For our human conception, Jesus is the Son. This is the closest representation people can understand to Jesus being an exact DNA replica of God in the flesh. It is a direct match. They are one and the same (John 10:30).

So why say all the above?

Jesus teaches that we are to be perfect (Matthew 5:48), because this directs people to face our fallen reality. God, and us, know we cannot be perfect. So, how is perfection achieved as a goal God has for our lives? Remember, that what is not possible with man is with God. This challenge is meant to turn people’s hearts to God through His human incarnation, Jesus. Then we can be perfect through Jesus.

**Individual verses Corporate Accountability~~?~~**

God calls us to an **individual relationship** with Him. We cannot achieve the life Paul describes through another agency. God does not call us to be zombie-functionaries performing religious rites to achieve right-standing before Him. So, how did we go from the **individual call from God** to a **call from man-made institutions** to achieve right- standing before God. This took place slowly over time. But it happened early in the Church.

**Romans 12:17-21**

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

In Romans 13, Paul takes another turn and points his pen towards the government and away from personal relationships. However, the last five verses in Romans 12 bring their weight forward to bear on how a people respond to the government particularly when the government stops being good.

From personal relationship to government, we do not pay back evil for evil. We seek for a peaceful solution and keep the big picture of assisting the entire community and do not take our own revenge. God will determine the enemy’s day of infamy.

**Government Account**

Verse 20 is demonstrated in an era in history (WW II) when the Allied powers rebuilt Japan and Germany instead of enslaving their populations in war reparations. At the end of WWI, Germany was enslaved in war reparation payments that led to great resentment and continued hostility from which Hitler and the Nazi party emerged.

**Personal Account**

Here I will relate an account when I was serving as a Houston Police officer. It was the winter of 1983. I was assigned the 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM shift. I worked nights for about six years (1979 to 1985). During those years, I patrolled the 18th and 15th district from the Southwest Patrol station. I was a Field Training Instructor and Evaluator and had a rookie fresh from the academy that I was training. We received a call to a seedy hotel on South Main to check on the welfare of a minor. This particular hotel was well-known to be supported by the economy of prostitution. This mile or so of Main Street in Houston was where prostitution was visible, as the prostitutes walked the street and loitered around parking lots. Some prostitutes still have somewhat of a conscious. It was a prostitute who observed an underage girl being led into a hotel room by a white man that had called the police. This was not a family hotel where people came to vacation. If you saw children there, they probably shouldn’t be. At least some of the prostitutes were conscious of their lair.

We knocked on the hotel room door and announced, “Houston Police Department.” We heard a shuffle inside the room and then a man’s voice came from directly behind the door. There wasn’t any peephole.

Suspect: “What do you want?”

“We are here to check on the welfare of a minor who was seen going into this room.”

Suspect: “I am here with my niece who is eighteen; we are on vacation traveling and stopped for the night.”

“Very good sir, then you won’t mind opening the door and letting us talk to your niece?”

Suspect: “We do not want to be disturbed, and I need to see a warrant.”

“Sir, we believe there is a minor involved here, and we are not leaving until we talk to her. We can go get a warrant, but the end result is the same. We are coming in. There isn’t any back door for you to escape. Open the door.”

Suspect: “Ok, just a minute.”

We backed away from the door to a position on either side with an eye on the window to the right of the door. The drapes were drawn and you could only see the glow of light from within the room. We waited about a minute not hearing anything from within the room. The door then opened. A mid-50’s white male, 5ft 10 inches, overweight (big pot-belly) with a beard was standing before us with the door only opened about a foot. We could see a young white girl sitting on the bed with an oversized jersey and pants. She had long brown hair. The man repeated to us that he and his niece were traveling and had stopped for the night. I called to the girl from outside the door and asked if the man was her uncle. She nodded with her head as if to say yes but then there was a frightened look in her eyes. I called to her again, and she did not respond. I then pushed passed the man, and we entered the hotel room. I positioned myself between the man and the girl. The girl appeared to be thirteen to fifteen years old. As I asked her what her date of birth was, the man was staring at her from across the room attempting to control her answer. She gave me a date of birth being in 1968 which would have made her fifteen and not eighteen. Again, this took place in 1983. I did not hesitate and directed my rookie-partner to escort the girl from the room. The suspect took a few steps toward the door, and I stepped in front of him. He could see that my physical appearance and the authority of the State were no match for him. He succumbed to the circumstances of his arrest.

After my partner left the room, I was alone with the suspect. I had noticed a shot gun in the far corner on the opposite side of the room from where the suspect was standing. The suspect had kidnapped the girl three days prior and had sexually abused her during that time. We could see that the girl was there against her will. One of the criminals I personally believe deserve the death penalty are child molesters like this man. He was at least thirty-five years older than her and had his way with her for three days. The physical abuse was one dimension to the crime. The emotional mental abuse was devastating beyond what anyone could measure. I thought about my own daughter. As I observed the shotgun in the corner, the thought crossed my mind to give this man what he deserves. I could easily shoot him and place the shotgun in his hands. This would do the world a favor. No need for a trial, and justice would have been done. There wasn’t anyone else in the room; the door was closed. No witnesses. But then. . . but then there is due process.

We called for another unit to transport the juvenile. She was taken to a hospital. Her parents were called, and, within twenty-four hours, she was reunited with her family. We transported the suspect to central and processed his charges through the District Attorney’s office. Believe it or not, the scumbag was afforded bail. I do not understand the system sometimes. I have no explanation why he was allowed to go free on bail awaiting trial. If I would have had it my way, he should have been kept in the county jail until trial with a sign around his neck “child molester” for all the other inmates to see. We know what happens to these kinds of criminals in prison . . . Justice.

**The rest of the story.**

I kept waiting for a court subpoena to be a witness as the arresting officer. A few months passed, but there wasn’t any word. several months passed, and then about nine months later, I received a subpoena. When I arrived in court, I did not see the suspect. I waited for the docket call. When the suspect’s name was called, a man stepped forward who had been seated on the front row of the court room. He wore a ragged suit coat, no tie, as he stood before the judge. This man was a rail. He could barely walk. His face looked like he had just came from a Nazi concentration camp. The judge read the charge of kidnapping and rape and asked the defendant how he pleaded. In a low voice, almost not able to be heard, he replied, “guilty.” The judge then read the charge again and asked the defendant again if he knew what his guilty plea meant. The defendant in the same broken voice said, “yes.” Of course, this guilty plea was agreed before the court appearance by the prosecutor’s office with the defendant. He was sentenced on multiple crimes that placed him in prison for the rest of his life.

After the bailiff escorted the defendant away, I told the prosecutor that I did not recognize him. I asked the prosecutor why it took so long to go to trial. The prosecutor told me that a few weeks after the defendant made bail, he was struck by an eighteen-wheeler head-on. That the defendant spent six months being hospitalized in traction. I was told that the defendant had suffered severe life-threatening injuries and his life expectancy was not long. This man has suffered as only God could administer.

I thought back to the shotgun in the hotel room. I thought, “God had punishment all set aside for this kidnapper rapist.” I felt justice had been accomplished. And I could live with this due process never looking back over my shoulder.

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12:19

**Now we turn to Romans 13** reflecting on the last words in Romans 12. We may be frustrated with the Government, but the same call from God applies as if we were addressing ~~a~~ our personal relationships and encounters. But then again, government is personal. We citizens have repeatedly been told lies about many things. Broken promises and self-indulgent elected officials are the norm in many areas of the country.

**Romans 13**

**1** Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior,

but for evil.

Do you want to have no fear of authority?

Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;

Do we, as Christians, have a right to confront a wrong? The Apostle Paul did. Paul was confrontational but not for the sake of just wanting to be argumentative. Paul’s aim was to correct a wrong. He knew the party he was addressing would be offended, but the correction needed to be made. We read Paul’s letter to the Believers in Corinth.

2 Corinthians 7:8-12

8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-- for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while--

9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

12 So although I wrote to you it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.

When evil is not afraid of the government then governments ordained authority has been vacated by that government. Evil is to fear authority. When the government fails to place fear into evildoers then they have become ineligible for public support. When governments become the very evil that they are to put fear into then there isn’t any rule of law.

We see that there isn’t any fear in the Drug Cartel in Mexico. Just last month, the government had the son of famed Drug Lord El Chapo in custody but were forced to release him when they came under heavy attack from Drug Cartel gunmen. Government had found El Chapo’s son in a neighborhood house. See BBC report below.

Fighting raged for hours after Ovidio Guzmán López was found in what authorities said was a routine patrol in the city of Culiacán.

Armed men were seen firing on police with bodies strewn in the road.

Police withdrew without Mr. Guzmán in their custody to avoid further violence, officials said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-50092641>

**Romans 13** (cont.)

4 for it is a minister of God to you for good.

But if you do what is evil, be afraid;

for it does not bear the sword for nothing;

for it is a minister of God,

an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

When government fails to be good, they have vacated their charter given by God. We, the people, then have the God-given right to reject their rule. This is what happened leading-up to the American Revolution. “When in the course of human events” are words that were heard around the world from July 4, 1776.

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They declared independence on July 2, 1776.

The difficulty we have in America is that government has exceeded its God-given charter. For years, the government has been funding abortion on-demand, including partial-birth abortion. The Federal government practices at will the surveillance of American citizens through digital technology. And we know that the agents of the government knowingly submitted false statements to a FISA Court. The **Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act** of 1978 established courts.

Fredrick Douglas 1818 to 1895

“Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them.”

“If there is no struggle there is no progress. . . . Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

“I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.”

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.”

“The lesson of all the ages on this point is, that a wrong done to one man is a wrong done to all men. It may not be felt at the moment, and the evil day may be long delayed, but so sure as there is a moral government of the universe, so sure will the harvest of evil come.”

"The contest is not between Us and Them, but between Good and Evil, and if those who would fight Evil adopt the ways of Evil, Evil wins." Abuses and Usurpations

Find out just what the people will submit to and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

— Frederick Douglass, civil rights activist, Aug. 4, 1857

**Romans 13** (cont.)

5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection,

not only because of wrath,

but also for conscience’ sake.

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another;

We can see with these words Paul is guiding the community of Believers not to avoid conflict. Paul had experienced great persecution by the Roman and Jewish authorities. It is obvious that if the Believer’s community is to survive and grow, they do not want to be seen as anti-government. There weren’t any civil rights like we have today. There were some protections for Roman citizens, but Paul and the 1st century Believers didn’t have any civil rights. We all know Roman leaders and culture were opposed to the Gospel Message. The Jews were out-right hostile to Believers as we see carried-out against Paul. If this letter was intercepted by the Roman officials, they would read that Paul was not a revolutionary against Rome.

We live in different times. America was founded upon different laws by which to govern, namely the Bill of Rights. The American Declaration of Independence claims the right and authority for rebellion from tyranny. This claim rests from possession of the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, . . . that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.

for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

**Romans 13** (cont.)

9 For this,

"You shall not commit adultery,

You shall not murder,

You shall not steal,

You shall not covet,"

and if there is any other commandment,

it is summed up in this saying,

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor;

love therefore is the fulfillment of *the* law.

11 And this *do*, knowing the time,

that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep;

for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand.

Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness

and put on the armor of light.

13 Let us behave properly as in the day,

not in carousing and drunkenness,

not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality,

not in strife and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,

and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

**Declaration of Independence**

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

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