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## **The 3322 Project Study Guide 3: “The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God”**

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### **Notable Quotations:**

“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.”

*-Declaration of Independence*

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work.” *-Titus 3:1, RSV*

“...for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrongdoer.”

*-Romans 13:4, RSV*

“Law, in its most general and comprehensive sense, signifies a rule of action; and is applied indiscriminately to all kinds of action, whether animate or inanimate, rational or irrational.” *-Blackstone’s Commentary on the Laws of England*

“This law of nature, being coeval with mankind, and dictated by God himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe in all countries, and at all times: no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this; and such of them

as are valid derive all their force and all their authority, mediately or immediately, from this original.” -*Blackstone’s Commentary on the Laws of England*

### **Short Answer Questions:**

1. What is coercive authority? Is it a bad thing?
2. What is the law of nature?
3. Did the men who founded our country see law as simply a human thing?
4. Does the fact that something is legal make it right?
5. What are the two foundations of all legitimate human law?

### **Longer Answer / Essay Questions:**

1. What is law? What is the relationship between natural law and law of a state?
2. How do we come to know what the natural law is, especially given our fallen nature?

### **Suggested Further Reading:**

*The Declaration of Independence*

Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (excerpts):

Introduction, Section II, “On the Nature of Laws in General”

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