

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, October 18, 2009

And Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Mark 12:17

If you think this verse is mainly about money and taxes, you'd be wrong. Certainly it includes these things, but it has to do with much more. The issue at stake here is, to whom do these things belong— our money, our time, our very lives. Certainly we would agree that they do not belong to Uncle Sam (or Caesar as the case may be). But just as surely, as we find in Scripture, neither do they belong to us in any kind of ultimately way.

You'll notice, in fact, that the statement Jesus makes here does not put us in the ultimate position at all. Certainly we are involved. We are the ones who must "render" (or give back) to Caesar what rightfully belongs to him, and to God what belongs to Him. We have a role to play. But ours is not the ultimate role. No, the ultimate role here belongs to God.

As we'll see in the message this morning, the reason we must "give to Caesar" is because Caesar's image is on the coin used to pay the taxes. And since Caesar's image is on the coin, the coin must belong to him. And since the coin belongs to him, he has a right to demand that we "pay back" to him that which is rightfully his. Therefore, a Christian must pay his taxes.

There is, however, a deeper issue involved here. Just as the money belongs to Caesar because it bears Caesar's image, so in the same way we, who bear the image of God (Gen 1:27) must also belong to God! To Caesar (or government) we owe our tax money, but to God we owe our all – our lives, our possessions, our very selves!

So Christian, give to government, what government has coming. Pay your taxes, vote, be a good citizen, etc. But at the same time give to God what God has a right to claim – all you have, all you are, and all you own!

And do it all for His glory!

Pastor Scott