

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Give Caesar What Is His

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Wayne and Cathy, Peggy Beebe needs our prayers.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Carla, Weston, Bella and Berty are traveling to Tennessee.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program

Women's Study: The next women's study will be Saturday December 28th at 1:00 PM at the Building

Evangelism: There are several bible studies ongoing. Check the web-site and attend if you can.

Today's Scripture: "And he saith unto them, Whose *is* this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." **Matthew 22:20-21 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter." **Ecclesiastes 10:20 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 73/50: Our Record: 107
For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell	(907) 373-5583	ed@churchofchristwasilla.com
Hans Nicholson	(907) 230-2969	hnichs@gmail.com
Paul Stone	(907) 491-1170	good_nooz@yahoo.com

DEACONS:

Joe Murdock	(907) 715-0089	montana2189@hotmail.com
Phillip Kelly	(907) 632-1118	affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com
Logan Decker	(907) 244-1777	logan.decker9@gmail.com

EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe	(907) 841-9261	bill@churchofchristwasilla.com
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December 15th, 2019 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear.....	Romans 10:17
Believe.....	Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
Repent.....	Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
Confess.....	Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
Be Baptized	Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life	Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Give Caesar What Is His

Well, it is about that time of the year again. I am not talking about Christmas and all the things that go with it, nor am I talking about New Years where we all look forward to a new start. Neither am I talking about the next few months of winter when people get out and enjoy themselves in the snow, either skiing, snow boarding, or snow machining. What I am talking about is tax season. I don't know about you, but this is not particularly my favorite season. Oh, I enjoy Christmas and New Year both. But I really don't like tax season. When Peggy and I lived in the Ozarks and had a farm we had a lot of opportunities, legally, to reduce our tax load. Since my farm was a tree and wildlife farm, I could deduct a lot of expenses without having to show regular income. And while I searched diligently for every deduction I could legally take, I did not lie about a deduction. I paid what I was legally required to pay, but I also took every deduction that I was legally entitled to.

In **Matthew 22:15-22 (KJV)**, Matthew tells us ¹⁵ *Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.* ¹⁶ *And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.* ¹⁷ *Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?* ¹⁸ *But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?* ¹⁹ *Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.* ²⁰ *And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?* ²¹ *They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.* ²² *When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.* While we often use this verse to discuss our obligations to the government in paying taxes, it teaches us so much more than that.

The most obvious things that it teaches, and one that we often use as well, is that we have obligations to God just as we have to Caesar. We are to "render to Caesar" those things that belong to him and to God those things that belong to Him. But what does this mean? It is easy to understand Jesus' meaning in saying "render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's". It is clear that Jesus is responding to the Pharisees' question on paying taxes to the Roman government, which they hated. And the answer Jesus gave wasn't hard to understand, pay the taxes you owe to the government, even when you strongly disagree with it. But, again, the question remains. What is He talking about when He continued and said "and unto God the things that are God's"?

God doesn't need nor does He want our money. The commandments He gave in the Old Testament about tithing were to support the Levitical priest and the tabernacle and later the temple. **Numbers 18:26-28 (KJV)** ²⁶ *Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes*

By: Bill Beebe

which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. ²⁷ *And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.*

²⁸ *Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.* And today, the commandment to give was for a very specific purpose, **1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (KJV)** ¹ *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.* ² *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.* ³ *And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.* ⁴ *And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.* Notice that the offering has been changed. No longer was it a tenth, but it is give "as God hath prospered" us. And the purpose is no longer to fund the Levites and priests. Our High Priest today is Jesus; **Hebrews 4:14-15 (KJV)** ¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.* ¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.* Jesus has no need for our funds, so the purpose of the funds given today are to care for those in need. This is what Paul intended to do with the offerings from the churches in Asia. And we also use the funds to support the operation of the local congregations.

So if God doesn't need nor want our money, what is it that Jesus was referring to when He said render to God the things that are God's? What God wants from us, and what we truly owe Him is our undying love. Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to "love God with all our heart, soul and mind" (Matthew 22:37). God also wants our true worship (John 4:23-24). God planned from the beginning to provide us salvation from the sins He knew we would be overtaken with. His love for us is so great that He gave His only son for our salvation (John 3:16). And even when we disappoint Him daily, He still loves us and is ready to forgive if we repent (Acts 3:19). Because of all these, we owe God our love, and when we truly give Him our love we will take great joy in worshiping Him. It will be then that gathering together to worship will not be a burden to any of us, and we will truly look forward to all the worship services and Bible studies that we have the opportunity to attend. And we will see spreading the gospel as an opportunity to introduce others to this great love and the life we have in Jesus and not as an embarrassing burden.

In this we render "unto God what is God's" and it will be a real pleasure for us to do so.