

Hold Onto the Eternal

What are you holding onto? Things come and go, time does not wait for anyone, and there is constant change in the world (Ecclesiastes 3). The material things around us get old and lose their value (Matthew 6:19). Even our own life is like a vapor; here one minute and gone the next (James 4:14). This earth also that we know will be gone one day (2 Peter 3:10-12). What do you now possess that isn't going to perish? What do you have that cannot be taken away?

Surprisingly, there actually are some things that you can latch onto that no one can take from you – ever! You can learn to hold on to the eternal. What are these eternal things? The unchanging God (James 1:17) and Christ (Hebrews 13:8), the unshakeable kingdom and church of our Lord (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:22-29), the ever-abiding word of God (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-24), the always abiding faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 6:19; Romans 8:31-39; 1 John 5:4), the ever-renewed inward soul of man (2 Corinthians 4:16-18), and the never-fading reward of heaven (2 Pet. 1:4).

So, what are you holding onto? Material things only? Things of this life only? Or, do you have these six indestructible, eternal things in your life? God and Christ, the church, the Bible, faith-hope-love, a soul right with God, and the hope of heaven.

- Chris Reeves -

News & Notes

Please mark your calendar with the following important dates...

Feb. 24: Next ladies' Bible class

April 5-8: Gospel meeting with John Gentry

June 4-8: VBS (tentative)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Some Things Which Belong to the Lord

Read Matthew 22:15-22 first, then consider the article below.

The Tuesday of Jesus' last week before going to the cross was a long day spent in teaching (from Matthew 21:18 to Matthew 26:1). The Jews (scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees) had been asking Jesus questions. There are four questions in all (Matthew 21:23; 22:17; 22:28; 22:36). Each question was asked in order to trap Jesus. The parallel accounts are found in Mark 12:13-17 and Luke 20:20-26.

Let's look at one of the questions found in Matthew 22:15-22. Jesus was asked: "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?" Jesus answered: "Why make trial of me, you hypocrites. Show me the tribute money."



First-Century "Tribute (Tax) Money"
Ti[berivs] Caesar Divi Avg[vsti] F[ilivs]
Avgvstvs
Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Di-
vine Augustus

If you read the story, you will note that the men asking Jesus this question

were disciples of the Pharisees and Herodians. Their motive was to ensnare and trap Jesus. Their method was hypocrisy, flattery, and craftiness.

However, Jesus, knowing their hearts, responded and taught two important lessons: First, one does not choose either state (Caesar) or religion (God); but, both state and religion. Both are important. Second, one needs to respect what belongs to another; give them (render) their due; do not keep back what rightly belongs to another.

Render Unto Caesar

What today should we give to the state (local, state, and federal government)? First, we should give them our obedience to the laws of the land (Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Titus 3:1). Second, we should give them our taxes (Romans 13:6-7). Third, we should give them our prayers (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Render Unto God

And, what about God? Ultimately, everything belongs to God: the earth and its fullness (Psalms 24:1). But, specifically, what should we give to God. Let's consider a few things that belong to God that we may forget about.

The church belongs to God. It is not "my church," "your church", etc. It is the Lord's church (Mathew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16). The word "reverend" is a description that also belongs to God, not to preachers

(Psalm 111:9). Honor and glory belong to God as well. Too many take glory to themselves rather than give glory to God (Acts 12:20-24).

What else belongs to God? Worship belongs to God. Religious people often worship themselves, angels, idols, etc. (Acts 10:25-26; 14:13-15). Sunday is the "Lords' day" and we owe God our presence in worship (Hebrews 10:25). The Lord's supper belongs to God. It is not a social meal (1 Cor. 11:20-34); it is to be eaten as he directs (Matthew 26:26-29).

What else belongs to God? Vengeance belongs to God. When someone does evil toward us, it is not our place to retaliate; vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:19). Salvation also belongs to God. Various religions have their own "plan of salvation". But, salvation belongs to the Lord (Psalm 3:8). Salvation is what Jesus and his apostles say it is (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Peter 3:21; etc.).

Do you give tribute to Caesar, but not to God? Do you give tribute to God, but not to Caesar? Is your life unbalanced? Are you a great citizen of the USA, but a poor citizen of the kingdom of God? Your best service to one (the state), does not free you from your duty to the other (God)!

Friend, give to God what belongs to God. Start by giving your life in obedience to his word today! - *Chris Reeves*