

Scripture Reference: Mark 12:13-17

Date: April 14, 2013

Title: "To Each His Due"

Focus: Christians have an obligation to civic and Kingdom affairs (Biblical View on Citizenry).

Intro:

1. There will always be a love hate relationship between government and the governed. This results because man does not like to be governed, but realizes it necessity.
2. Jesus lays out the relationship of the ruler to the ruled, whether the ruler is man or God.

Body:

The Context

To rightly understand Jesus' response, it is necessary to recognize the circumstance into which He spoke.

Misapplication of His words has led some have to say one must choose between two competing and coexisting authorities.

It was the Pharisees' attempt to put Jesus an *either/or* spot where He would have to choose between God and Rome. (vv. 13-14)

The power of Jesus' response was that obedience to secular power does not necessarily conflict with an obligation to God (v. 17).

It is perfectly possible to be a disciple who honors God by honoring his or her ruler.

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"

Caesar and God each deserve their due. Obedience to government and God ARE NOT incompatible.

In the eyes of God, there is no exclusion between Church and State. The two work in concert.

Giving Caesar His Due - What is His Due?

Rom 13:1-5 tells that the domain of government is public life

Rulers have "*governing authorit[y]*". – They have the sword to "*bring wrath on the one who practices evil.*"

They are to manage the welfare of society for public benefit.

In this endeavor, man has an obligation to government:

Pay taxes - Mark 12:13-17

Obedience. - Romans 13:1

Prayer - 1 Tim 2:1-4

As part of being "salt and light" and your "brother's keeper," you are to be engaged in the political process, voting, running for office, speaking on the issues.

Giving God His Due - What is His Due?

The domain of God is the life of a person. As creator, He has a place in the life of every person. (Psalm 24)

As creator, God is owed:

Obedience. All people are accountable to God.

Worship. For who He is and what He has done, YHWH is worthy of praise.

Consideration. Given His character and actions, YHWH deserves a hearing on His claims.

What to do when "Caesar" and God Conflict.

History shows sometimes these authorities clash.

When rulers seek to extend their influence beyond their sphere and into that of God, believers owe ultimate allegiance to God.

Acts 4:18-20; "[The priests] called [Peter and John], and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more

than to God, you be the judge. For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Yet, *disobedience* is to be limited to the point of conflict. All authority does is not bad *just* because one thing authority does is *wrong*.

Closing:

1. Humanity owes to both Government and God allegiance.
2. In their citizenry disciples show their confidence in God.