

Everythings Belongs to God

Promise: God takes care of everything belonging to him, including us

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96; 1 Thess 1:1-10; [Matthew 22:15-22](#)
(20th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 24), 10/18/20)

Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." – v. 21b

Lead In – Both as a speaker, and as a listener to public address, I love the Q & A time. The dialog made possible by questions and answers is most helpful in the learning process. At the same time, we are all well aware of the difference between a sincere question actually awaiting and open to an answer in which something is learned; and to a disagreeing or protesting statement posing as a question. And we are aware of questions not actually meant to inquire, but to trap or belittle instead. Our Lord Jesus faced many of the latter, and especially from religious leaders...

I. The Attempt to Entangle Jesus In His Words

- A. A little flattery, and an insincere question...
- B. Awareness, and Jesus use of ad hominin counter...
- C. Jesus teaches and reverses the trap...

II. Important to Understand What Jesus Is Teaching

- A. Ownership is not divided between God and...
- B. God owns it all! But entrusts property and gifts...

III. When We Fail To Understand God Owns It All

- A. Who do we think nascent human life belongs to?
- B. Who do we think institution of marriage belongs?
- C. Who do we think our identity as humans belong?
- D. Who do we think our income belongs to?

Parting Shot – We can take a coin. I will take one right now. The image on this coin is not Tiberius Caesar. But it is one of the United States of America's Presidents. Does it belong to the government? No. But it does not belong to me either. It has been entrusted to me. And God wants a part of it to go to the government! But what I really need to do is look into a mirror. Distorted by sin to be sure, but whose image is inscribed on the person I am looking at?...

Pr 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

Pr 28:23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

Ps 141:9-10 Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.

Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

"I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and I need from day to day. ..." – *Luther's expl to 1st Art.*

Matthew 22:15-22 ESV

Paying Taxes to Caesar

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Ro 13:1-2 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Ro 13:6 For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

Cooperating With A Lie: speaking the language of the lie, celebrating the untruth, or cooperating with the falsehood.

Ro 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Mt 19:4-5 [Jesus] answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'?"

Ge 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2 Co 9:8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

Gift of Faith: Entrusting that God takes care of everything belonging to him, including redeeming lost sinners with forgiveness, life, and salvation.

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