

Living As Foreigners II

- * Do you feel like an alien or foreigner in this world or are you completely comfortable living life with no outside (inside) pressures to your lifestyle?
 - * Does your heart long for something beyond this life or are you satisfied with life as it is???
 - * You and only you can honestly answer where your heart is as it relates to your relationship with Jesus, being like Him and thinking like Him!
 - * Can you honestly state that you are more attached to Him and His Kingdom NOW or are you more attached to this life and existence?
- I. I believe one of the most damaging thoughts among Christians is what is described as “DUAL ALLEGIANCE.”
- A. “Dual Allegiance” is the thought that we are “obligated” to faithful allegiance to God and Secular Society!
 1. We use phrases like, “it is hard to balance” being faithful to God and walk a balanced life in the world!
 2. We even have a scripture to base our thoughts on!
A scripture that I personally believe is grossly misapplied!

Matthew 22:15-22 (NLT)

15 Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. 16 They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. 17 Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” 18 But Jesus knew their evil motives. “You hypocrites!” he said. “Why are you trying to trap me? 19 Here, show me the coin used for the tax.” When they handed him a Roman coin, 20 he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on

it?" 21 Caesar s," they replied. Well, then," he said, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."
22 His reply amazed them, and they went away.

3. Why were they AMAZED if Jesus was simply telling telling them to pay their taxes?
4. They were amazed because He wasn't saying that!
5. They were trying to "trap Him" with a question about taxes and Jesus completely spoke to the deeper issue!
6. This "deeper issue" is a question for all believers and for us as well!

B. Notice how Jesus responded! "Whose picture and title are on this coin?"

1. First, it is important to know the command of God to the Jews concerning this interaction here!

Exodus 20:4 (RSV)

4 You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

2. I read where it was said,

"Some take this command to prohibit any kind of representation of God, such as with a painting of Jesus or a picture of a dove to represent the Holy Spirit, or any other representation. However, others emphasize that the prohibition is actually in the making of an image that would be or would likely be worshipped." David Guzick, Enduring Word Press

3. Since Rome emphasized the "worship of Caesar," this last explanation sounds accurate!
4. So if Jesus wasn't talking about "paying taxes" or our "Dual allegiance" to both God and the world, what WAS

He speaking of?

II. We always find answers to such challenges within the scriptures themselves!

A. First, let's remember what was said about Man from our creation!

Genesis 1:27 (RSV)

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

1. This is obviously a universal truth for all of mankind, but it was especially important to and stressed by the Jews!
2. So much so that it often divided the Jews from the rest of the world in their minds! "We are God's chosen and the rest of the world is NOT!"
3. We must realize that this would have been on the minds of every Jew listening to Jesus!
4. "No graven images and we are in God's image!"

B. Reading this in the "cultural context" in which it was written, it is almost impossible to think that Jesus was saying for us to pay our taxes!

1. Rather, Jesus was saying, "Give to the world what bears the image of the world, but give to God what bears His image!"
2. Since we bear His image we must give ourselves to Him! NOT THE WORLD!

Romans 6:13 (NLT)

13 "Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but

now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.”

3. How much is COMPLETELY?

4. THIS IS NOT A STORY OF DUAL ALLEGIANCE, THIS IS A COMMAND OF TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO GOD!

C. Everything about our life should be lived in such a way that...

our involvement in this world is limited to our ability to engage actively to the point that my decisions do not violate God’s holy standards of His new Kingdom!