

“WHAT DO YOU THINK?”

I. “IS IT LAWFUL TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR, OR NOT?”

A. **Matthew 22:15-22**

Jesus teaches that paying taxes does not contradict a life of obedience to God.

B. **Romans 13:1-7**

In fact, God ordained civil government, so we are obligated to pay taxes.

C. **Luke 3:12-14**

Not only must a disciple pay his taxes, but he is also permitted to serve as a tax collector.

D. **Matthew 17:24-27**

The members of the king’s family are not taxed, but are maintained by the taxes paid by others (25-26). By that logic, the Son of God would be exempt from the temple tax. Nevertheless, He who fulfilled the Law (**Matthew 5:17-18**) submitted willingly to taxes (27). From His example, we learn that we must also submit to taxes.

II. “WHICH OF THESE... WAS NEIGHBOR TO HIM?”

A. **Luke 10:25-37**

Having been asked who one’s neighbor is, in order to fulfill the command “*love your neighbor as yourself*”, Jesus responded that the most important thing is to **be** a good neighbor.

1. **Matthew 5:43-44**

This involves loving all people equally, even our enemies.

2. **Romans 15:1-3**

Similarly, we must respect the consciences of those with stricter scruples than are necessary.

B. **Matthew 22:34-40**

Every command given us falls into one of two categories, either love of God or love of neighbor.

1. **Romans 13:8-10**

Paul confirms this by telling us that love is the summary of all commands, and therefore the fulfillment of the Law.

2. **Galatians 5:14-15**

This truth is violated by fighting among brethren.

3. **James 2:8-9**

It is also violated by displays of partiality.

III. **“DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE NINETY-NINE... TO SEEK THE ONE THAT IS STRAYING?”**

A. **Matthew 18:12-14**

Rescuing one soul from sin is so important that it is worth leaving the saved to do. We are obligated in this regard because it is contrary to the will of God that anyone should die in his sins.

B. **1st Timothy 2:3-4**

God desires all men to be saved.

C. **2nd Peter 3:9**

This is why He has yet to destroy the world.

IV. **“WHICH OF THE TWO DID THE WILL OF HIS FATHER?”**

A. **Matthew 21:28-31**

He who does the Father's will is he who obeys, not just he who says he will obey.

B. **Ecclesiastes 5:5**

Many claim to be Christians, but few follow through.

C. **2nd Corinthians 7:8-10**

Notice that the one who acted was motivated to do so by regret.

V. “...ABOUT THE CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE?”

A. **Matthew 22:41-46**

Jesus wanted to know what His disciples thought about the Christ. They affirmed Him to be the son of David, but Jesus asked how that could be if David regarded the Christ as his Lord.

1. **2nd Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 132:11-12**

Truly, David was assured that the Christ would be his descendant.

2. **Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32; Romans 1:3**

When Christ Jesus arrived in the world, His genealogy proved that He was the son of David.

3. **Acts 2:29-36**

Jesus fulfilled the Davidic covenant.

B. **Matthew 16:13-17**

On another occasion, Jesus inquired of His disciples as to their understanding of His identity. In this instance, Peter testified Jesus to be “*the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*”

1. **John 20:30-31**

The Bible was written so that we can arrive at the same conclusion.

2. **1st John 4:15**

Confession of this fact results in God abiding in us.

3. **Acts 8:35-38**

Confession of this fact should follow with baptism.

CONCLUSION

A. What do you think about the Christ? Will you believe and obey Him?

B. What do you think about doing the will of the Father?