

# What it Means to be a Christian (II)

“A beautiful face will age and a perfect body will change, but a beautiful soul will always be a beautiful soul”

Problem with our age: some have compromised their priorities to focus on the physical

Ro.6:17, obedience from the heart

Ro.10:15, beautiful feet...gospel of peace

Lesson One:

1. Family relations
2. Social relations

# I. Government Relationships

## Mt.17:24-27

Law based on Ex.30:13-14, temple maintenance, collected from Israelites, age 20+

24: Jesus subject to tax? (Mt.23:8)

25: Peter answers yes...

26: Peter admits king's family is exempt

27: Jesus wants to avoid offense (may cause another to sin)

## Mt.17:24-27

27: Jesus wants to avoid offense

- Free of tax; other factors must decide. He gave up His rights. Mt.5:40-42. Ph.2
- Peter looks a gift-fish in the mouth – *statēr* (four drachmas). ESV; NASB: *shekel*
- Israel was a Theocracy ('*God*' + '*rule*'): state governed by direct divine guidance, or by divinely guided officials.

God wanted even Jesus to  
obey the law of the land

## Mt.22:15-22

15: entangle, as fowler catches birds

16a: Pharisees resisted all foreign power...

16b: they think flattery will buy everything

17: Jews interpretation of Dt.17:15

18: Jesus saw through them

19-20: His visual aid coin (image of Tiberius?)



## Mt.22:15-22

21: “Caesar’s” . . . therefore render...

- Hypocritical to use his coin, not give it back
- Caesar had right to tribute because his authority was of God
- Dan.4<sup>17</sup> This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men

## John 19:...10-11

- Even Pilate had legitimate authority

## Ac.5:...28-29

- When government oversteps its bounds ...  
disobedience must follow

## Rom.13:...6-7

- Variety of taxes



## Romans 13

1: appointed by God

2: resistance invites judgment

3: doing good brings praise

4: God's minister to you for good

5: conscience' sake

## 1 Peter 2

13-14: submit . . .

15: doing good may silence ignorance

16-17: honor . . .

I. Government Relationships

II. Economic Relationships

# Money Matters

- Lk.2:24, Law of Moses was **gracious to poor**
- Lk.8:1-3, Jesus knew personal **poverty**
- Lk.12:13-21, a real **fool**
  - 22-34, true **treasures**
- Lk.16:19-31, a **glance** into eternity
- Lk.18:18-23, a **poor, rich** man

# Money Matters

- Lk.18:18-23, a **poor, rich** man –
  - Kept possessions to maintain present joy. He would inherit eternal sorrow.
  - Modern attitude: get as much as possible, for as little effort as possible...even if you have to cheat. 1 Tim.6:10
  - Work as if Christ were your Foreman. Ep.6:5

I. Government Relationships

II. Economic Relationships

III. Religious Relationships

## Lk.23:46, climax of His earthly life

- He always committed everything to God
- Christians have same goal
  - 2 Tim.1:12

### Illustrated in Paul – Ph.3:12-16

12: We're not Home yet

13: One thing I do

13: Forgetting the past

14: Press toward goal. <sup>1</sup>Target. <sup>2</sup>Prize

15: Paul urges all to have this mind

15-16: Use what you have to reach maturity

## Misconceptions... Some think that . . .

- everyone goes to heaven.
- being part of a local church guarantees heaven.
- religion is like wearing a Sunday suit.  
Rv.3:17
- it's impossible to be different.
  - Josh.6:22
  - Josh.24:15