

Christians and the Government

Matthew 17: 22-27

January 15, 2023

Verse 22 - 23

Jesus will be killed and raised up – *was it the Government?*

Who really killed Jesus?

Rome, the Jews, Herod, Pilate, you?

Allow Scripture to help us:

Acts 4: 27-28

Acts 2: 23

Isaiah 53: 10

**Herod, Pilate, Rome, Jews, I – we were all
complicit – BUT**

**The ultimate source of Jesus' death was God
– BUT**

**Jesus willingly gave His life for you -
John 10: 17-18**

**The disciples' focus was on Jesus' death,
What did they miss?**

The RESURRECTION!!

Our world misses the Resurrection

Our world denies the Empty Tomb

**Our world ignores the eyewitness testimony
of the Resurrected Jesus**

Our world sees through world eyes; believers see through MIRACLE eyes

Our world misses the Resurrection

Don't you miss it!

Believe and receive the gift of salvation!

Verse 24 – 25a

Governments are big on taxes

The taxman was called a **“publicanus”**, meaning public revenue

Matthew worked for Rome; he was a publican and was hated by the people

Jesus was born into a Roman world and was expected to pay taxes to Rome and the Temple

What is the Temple tax?

The two drachma (stater) tax was a Jewish tax on every male Jew between the ages of 20-50 to pay for maintenance of the Temple and its services

Verse 25b - 27

**Jesus was exempt from Temple and
Government tax, yet paid the tax**

Why was Jesus exempt?

*Jesus is God's Son; a King's Son
does not pay taxes*

Jesus is telling Peter He is God

Jesus knew – *He is God*

Paul knew – *Jesus is God* – Colossians 2: 9

Demons know – *Jesus is God*

The disciples will come to believe – *Jesus is God*

The questions is: **Do you believe Jesus is God?**

Your only hope!

There is one mediator between God and man, ***JESUS!***

***“For there is one God and one Mediator
between God and men, the Man
Christ Jesus”***

1 Timothy 2: 5

Jesus paid the tax – how was it paid?

A MIRACLE!!

*Peter caught the first fish, opened its mouth,
and found the exact amount, a stater*

“ give it to them for Me and you”

The Christian's responsibility to pay taxes –

***“Render therefore to Caesar the things
that are Caesar's, and to God the things
that are God's” – Matthew 22: 21***

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Who established government?

GOD!



The Government has three responsibilities:

- 1) The sword of justice – punish criminals**
- 2) The sword of order – to thwart rebellion**
- 3) The sword of war – to defend the State**



Christians are to submit to civil authority

1 Peter 2: 13-17

Christians are not to give total and final allegiance to the secular state

A Christians' final allegiance must be to God!

Christians are to obey civil authorities

(Romans 13: 5) to avoid anarchy, BUT, there are times when they may be forced to disobey

When the Government's commands go against God's Word, we cannot obey

When told not to teach in the name of Jesus and to stop teaching the Word, to comply or else,

“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men” Acts 5: 29

THE CHRISTIAN DILEMMA IN AMERICA:

America has devolved into darkness

It has joined the ranks of the world

Worship of false gods, *gods our forefathers never knew*, is rampant and welcomed

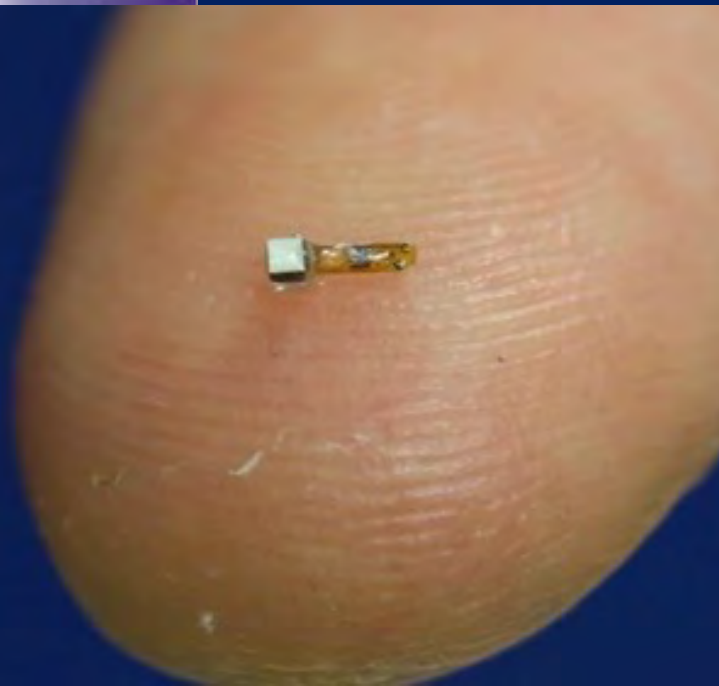


**“Government’s
first duty is
to protect
the people,
not run
their lives.”**

Ronald Reagan

SURPRISE!!

**The world’s first security
controller chip development!**



Our government has taken on the role of legislating morality, telling its citizens what is moral

What the government promotes has infiltrated the Church

With this infiltration, indoctrination is almost complete *(there is still a remnant restrainer)*

The Church, *the last bastion of defense*, is generally compromised

Repeating a lie over and over to change human thinking has been around for a long time



If you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, and you will even come to believe it yourself.

— Joseph Goebbels —

A lie told often enough becomes the truth.

Vladimir Lenin



www.thequotes.in

OUR DUTY, OUR CALLING IN SUCH A TIME:

- 1) To SPEAK the truth, be Salt and Light – GOD
- 2) Live not by lies – Rod Dreher
- 3) We will not be silenced – Erwin Lutzer
- 4) To be bold for Christ, *no Christian chameleons, please!*



We must not, we cannot, pat someone on the head and affirm their sinful lifestyle




You are an ambassador of Christ

Speak the Truth, live not by lies, do not be silenced, *be bold for Christ!*

This is how we live in a nation running from God!

***THIS IS THE CHRISTIAN' RESPONSE TO A
DEVOLVING GOVERNMENT***



**Be bold,
be strong
For the Lord your God
is with you**