

Matthew 22:15-22 ¹⁵ Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? ¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

Psalm 24:1 Modern English Version ¹ The earth belongs to the Lord, and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in

The following story illustrates the concept of tithing, the practice of giving back to God what really belongs to him anyway.

Once upon a time there was a man who had nothing, so God gave him 10 apples. The first three apples were for the man to eat, the second three were to trade for shelter, and the last three

God gave the man the 10th apple so he might have something to give back to God in gratitude for the other nine. So the man did just that, he ate the first three and traded the others for shelter and clothes. Then he looked really hard at the 10th apple, knowing that God wanted him to give it back with a grateful

heart. But this last apple seemed so much bigger and juicer than the others, and the man reasoned that God already had all the apples in the world anyway. Why would God need his apple? So, the man ate the 10th apple and gave the core to God. We should not give because we think God needs our

gifts in order to be God, or that the church needs our money to be the church. Harnish writes, "The people of God — you and me — give to the church and to God because of our gratitude to him. We give back to God what is God's so that through our gifts the love of God can become a tangible reality in our world.

Our giving is a reminder of the blessings God gives us and gave to us through Jesus Christ."

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The whole purpose of this question was either way to get the Lord Jesus into trouble. Had Jesus answered "YES" He would have been accused of supporting the hated Roman Government. Had He said "NOT" He would have been handed to the tyrannic Roman government to be prosecuted as a man

inciting people to rebel buy not paying their taxes.

Sometimes loaded questions are asked to try to trick a person into saying something that will get them into trouble. So the question posed to Jesus—"Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"—was indeed a tricky one.

Jesus didn't answer the question in the way his interrogators anticipated. "Give to Caesar" could be translated more literally as "Give back to Caesar." In other words, if you're going to use Caesar's money, go ahead and give it back to him. If you're going to live in the world, do what the world requires.

But then, Jesus continued, "Give back to God what belongs to God." This is what really matters. Our giving to God is always, in a sense, giving back. When we give our to us. When we give ourselves to God's service.

We are giving back a portion of the life he has given to us. When we consider just how much God has given to us, most of all in Jesus Christ, we realize that we should give back to God, not just a portion, but all that we are. Indeed, we belong to God—our bodies and minds, our hearts and spirits.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

IMAGE MARRED.

64-1205 - The Identified Masterpiece Of God

69 After man had fallen and deliberately opened the door to the enemy, who come in and marred him, and set death in him, still God was not willing to see his plan be defeated. He came down and started all over again. He was going to make

70 He put Adam on a covenant, "Do this, and not this; this, and not that; touch not, handle not, taste not." 71 But we find out, when He started again, He started with Abraham. And in Abraham, He started him on an unconditional covenant. Not "if you will." "I have. I've already done it. I've blessed you,

you and your seed, and so forth, after you." It was an unconditional covenant with a promise. ... 72 Then He came to the patriarchs... Here He displayed the foundation of His work. Now we have Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph; the four patriarchs. 73 .. Abraham represented faith work.

He had the great faith, "He staggered not at the promises of God, through unbelief." When everything was against him, he still held on to God. 74 Then Isaac the beloved son represented love. Abraham being a type of God, as Isaac was offered, Genesis 22, we find out that he carried the wood up and everything portrayed Christ, foreshadowed Him. And then the ram came and was offered in his stead. Now that was faith, love. 75 And Jacob, a "supplanter," a deceiver. Represented grace, it was the grace of God, all the time, with Jacob. 76 Then come Joseph. There's nothing against Joseph.

He was the perfected one. God's prophet that came forth among his brethren. He was hated without a cause and was sold. In every way, his life foreshadowed the life of Jesus Christ. "Came to His own, His own received Him not." Joseph was thrown into a ditch, supposedly be dead; taken out, exalted to the right hand of

Pharaoh. Whenever he would leave the throne, they blew the trumpet, every knee had to bow to Joseph. 77 We find out that Jesus was almost sold for the same price Joseph was. Taken up from the pit; and ascended into Heaven; sets at the right hand of God. And when He comes from that Place, "The trumpet

will sound, and every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess to Him," perfection. That was faith, love, grace, and perfection. 78 Then the body work came up from this great sculpture. He made the body work by the prophets. The prophets was the body work. 79 Then finally came the head of this great body, which was

64-1205 - The Identified Masterpiece Of God

57 And then the enemy come in, by deceit, and crawled through the walls of God's Word, 'because the door was open to him, and he marred that image, to sin. That's one of the saddest stories. 58 To think, that the man that was made in the image of his

given a wall to stand behind, the Word—his shield-his armor. It's his rock today, stay behind the Word; ... 59 Now, you must never get from behind That. When you do, you're opening the door to the enemy, when they say, "Oh, well, you can do a little of this, and a little of that." God wants you to separate yourself from

Completely set aside for Him, and for Him only.

64-0705 - The Masterpiece 197 The Seed fell in the ground at Nicaea. That was the original Seed. And She's come through the process of these denominations, which only comes in existence once. But the

Bride returns back again in the last days. "I will restore." See, the Masterpiece is brought up. That's the reason She was in view, reviewed, the second time. She was reviewed the first time, then she was reviewed the second time. And She was perfectly, the second time, like She was the first time.

O God, have mercy! Hurry, hurry, hurry, Life, get in the Grain, right quick! Uh-huh. 198 All others never appeared no more. They went out, never to come back again. But the Bride came back, 'because She was Alpha and Omega. God, the great Sculptor, has made Him a Masterpiece, for It is a piece of His first

Eden, and took a piece from, and made another piece and that was marred and fell, now He's been all this time building it up again. And He brought forth this Masterpiece, and was smitten, in order...to bring back again that Masterpiece...

62-0729 - Perseverant

176 When you Indians had this country yourself, there was no trouble among you. No. You lived a good, long life, and everything went along well. Little tribal fusses were settled by getting out there and fighting it out among yourselves, but when the white man come in, he brought

drinking, sin, and a marred civilization always brings that. What you got? A perversion, murders, theft, steal, homosexual, all kinds of stuff in this last day, exactly what the Bible said would happen, but here we got it. See? No wonder a person can't be persistent, they don't know where they stand. How could a

hybrid be persistent when he don't even know who his father and mother is. See? You couldn't do it.

59-1125 - From The Beginning It Wasn't So

17 Man perverts things. A man in his fallen estate is worse than animal. .. Men will do things that an animal won't do. Man is not muscles. Say, "Oh, he is a man." I've seen men that weighed two hundred pounds that didn't have an ounce of man in them.

not measured by his muscles; that's a beast. Man is measured by character. A man is a man by character. That's the reason Jesus was the greatest Man that ever lived. There was nothing that could ever measure to His character. But the Bible said, "There was no beauty that we should desire Him when we

looked upon Him, we hid as it were our faces from Him." He wasn't a great stately kingly looking man but probably a little stooped shouldered Fellow. He was marred. But in His character there has never been anyone that could compare with Him. He was a real Man.

58-0927 - Why Are We Not A Denomination?

266 ... They never had to die... But sin come along and marred the picture. Now, Why did God permit it? He permitted it so that He could prove that He was a Savior. He let sickness happen, to prove that He was a Healer. He let death happen, to prove

happen, to prove that He was good, what He was.

55-0115 - Law

34.....God never put us here to die; He put us here to live. He never put us here to have funeral services; He put us here to be happy

children, to rejoice for evermore. And even though sin marred the picture, the redeeming Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses it. 35 You know what the **Blood of Christ does to confessed** sin?it changes its color and becomes righteousness. For you're willing to acknowledge it and accept God's provided way for you to be

53-0509 - The Pillar Of Fire

19 So you can see when man marred himself, he sinned. And then the only way it was, is for God to be manifested here on earth in a body of flesh to take away the sin out of that man and bring him back in fellowship with God, makes him a son of God again. It's the only way he can be.

50-0815 - Who Is God?

20And after this man sinned, he marred that soul. Blackness, darkness come into it. And then God came down and lived in man, suffered with man, to redeem man; and the Holy Spirit comes into man and drives that blackness and sin away from him, and brings it back into perfect fellowship, a part of God. And now, we, by the

Blood of Christ, Who cleanses us from sin, we become sons and daughters of God. The Herodians were Jews who supported King Herod's dynasty and therefore tolerated their Roman overlords better than the common people in Israel did. Although they were on the opposite side of the political and religious

spectrum, they joined forces with the Pharisees because both groups saw Jesus as a threat. They chose the question about paying taxes to Caesar because they believed that no matter how Jesus answered, He would alienate either the Jewish listeners, who hated the tax, or the Romans, who supported the tax.

61-0903 - Let Your Light So Shine Before Men

101 So I believe that the Christian is God's billboard. I believe that each one of us is God's billboard. ... Just simply live such a life that'll make the people hungry to be like you...103 Now, the only way that the world will ever see Christ is when they see him

you and me. That's the only way they'll ever see Christ. Their—their conscience are numb to the sunsets, to the call of the birds, to the leaves, and—and the grass, and the flowers; and the music, and the Message and so forth, that we enjoy after we have found Christ. But, until we get to a place that we display Christ!

104 Now, remember that. Each one of you, from tonight on, remember, you are God's billboards. And you're—you're God's advertising agent. Now, the world will look at you, to see what Christ is. So we don't want to smear a big lot of stuff on there, that testify about things that we really are not.

Let's first be that. Then when we be that, then the world will see Christ in you and me.

<u>56-0213 - Hidden Life With Christ</u>

56There's many people who's been Christians for years and never won another soul to Christ. They've never given a public testimony of their salvation in church or before people, or on the streets; they never testified to a sinner, woman or man in their

work or somewhere. They can't yield fruit, why? They can't get quiet long enough. You got so many things to do. 57 Here not long ago I was talking to your neig—man over here in your neighboring state. He said, "Well," he said, "Preacher Branham, I want to tell you something," said, "we, my people settled

here years ago." Said, "We're all hog raisers." He said "I...My grandfather raised this herd of hogs and he educated my father. And then my father when he died, he—we inherited it, and I'm—got the hogs, and I'm educating my children..." And on like that. Just hogs, hogs, is all I could hear. And I said,

"That's good, fellow..." I said, "I appreciate..." Said, "We pay all of our bills by these hogs. We just keep bringing more hogs and selling them off, and bringing them on. Keeping the younger..." I said, "That's fine, but did you ever stop to think that God put you here for something besides raising hogs?

Though as legitimate as it might be, God put you here to be sons and daughters of God, not just to raise hogs alone." 58 God didn't put you here to work in a factory just alone; He put you here as a testimony, a written epistle, read of all men, to live a honorable and decent life, and a hid consecrated life with God

so that men would know that Jesus Christ still lives and reigns. Amen. That's a little pinchy, but it's good. It'll help your—your digesting orders, you know, to take the food right. Amen. It'll fit you into a place where that—that you can receive healing for both soul and body.

62-0124 - Have Not I Sent Thee?

51 Look at Peter. He saw God at work. Look at Paul, saw God at work. Look at the prophets of old. They saw God at work. Exactly right. You take a man today, a preacher that's preaching the full Gospel, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they'll look at them men and see God at work.

He will have a life that'll reflect anywhere, beyond a reproach, anything. See? It's God working and the people can see. "You are written epistles." What kind of an epistle? An epistle of God, God bearing record that He sent you.

62-0727 - We Would See Jesus

58 That's the reason, Christians, I think it's so real tonight, and so that we should live the right kind of a life, because, you see, there's many people, won't take time to read the Bible, but they'll read you. See, you are a written epistle of God. A real, true, borned

again Christian is the Word expressed again, because you're written epistles of God, read of all men. What type of person should we to be, if we know that our lives is a open, living Bible to the unbeliever, to express God in our own life? Notice. Now, we see "He was the Word. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt

among us." Now, we find out that, in Hebrews, you who are writing it down, Hebrews 4:12, the Bible said that, "The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the asunder, and the marrow of the bone, and a Discerner of the thoughts that's in the heart." The Word of God discerns the thought

that's in your heart. Therefore, God tonight, being the Word, knows exactly what you're even thinking about this very minute. So should not our thoughts be pure, clean, holy, always thinking the best?

63-0123 - Identification

99 That don't mean perfection in yourself. You can't be that. But, you see, even our people are getting away from the practice of holiness. We begin to let down so many bars. See? We got to come to that place of our profession. He is our example, and He is our sin Bearer.

And then if we profess that He is our Peacemaker, He is our Propitiation, then if we profess that, then that is supposed to reflect Him back in us. And we are a written epistle, a looking glass, that people can see Christ in us. And now, if they don't, then we're—we're—we're looking at something else, and we're not looking

of the world, and live." The only way you can. His sinful...

63-0123 - Identification

118 Did you ever think? He never wrote a book when He was on earth. As far as we know, He never wrote but one time. That was in the sand. Then erased it out, probably, afterwards.

Why didn't He write a word? Because He was the Word. See? He lived the Word. We don't need so many books, when you become a written epistle of God. See? See? That's what God wants you to be, images of Him.

64-0112 - Shalom

9 God is in man. And He's identifying Himself today in His Church. In the born-again Christian, God identifies Himself, that He remains God. And the outside world will only know God as they see God in you and I. That's the only way that they'll know God, is

we are written epistles, epistle of the Scripture, we are read of all men. And the life that we live reflects what's on the inside of us. A man is identified by the works that he does. So our works should be good, see, always good, because we are representing our Lord Jesus Christ.

64-0614M - The Unveiling Of God 271 As it is written, see, "Written, you are written epistles," the Bible said. Now, what is epistle? Is a "written word." And you are the "written." Other words, you'd read It like this, "You," It said, "you are written epistles," or, "you are the Word, that has

been written, made manifest," nothing can be added to It. You can't say, "I'm a written epistle," and living some other kind of a something but what This has already wrote, [Brother Branham pats his Bible—Ed.] because nothing can be added or taken away.

64-1212 - The Harvest Time

226 It's got to be quoted just the way He said It. Then, if It's quoted right, He'll vindicate It to be so in your life. "That's how all men know you're written epistles read of God." Written epistle is this "Bible." Is that right? An epistle is the Bible. And you're a

written Bible reflecting His Word, that perfect man again, in God.

65-0220 - God's Chosen Place Of Worship

90 God had a certain place He met—He met Abraham, and there Abraham worshipped. All down through the Testament! And His

by Him. Did you get that? The Word that He promised to fulfill in the day that you're living in: you will be a written epistle of God, read of all men. Not what you claim, but what God does through you, will speak out louder than anything you could claim. God said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." That speaks

59-1126 - Jehovah Of Miracles

47...Oh, take us, Lord, mold us, fashion us, take us away from the world. O God, put Your Spirit in us. You said, "You are a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, a spiritual priesthood offering spiritual gifts, the fruits of our lips, giving praise to God." That's what

we're doing right now, Lord, giving praise to our God, making a sacrifice, throwing up our lips, our praise, and saying, "We love You, Lord; we don't care what anyone says. We love You. You're our God; You're our Saviour; we—our Healer; You're our King, You're our salvation; You're our life; You're our—You're

all that we are Lord. You are that to us, and we thank You for it." Bless us, Lord. We wait on You, wait for You to guide us. Send us anywhere; do anything with us You want to. Take us in Your hand; You're the potter; we're the clay. Mold us and make us after Your Own way, Lord. Make us images of God. Grant it,

Lord.

62-1111M - Dedication

91 God always fills His temple. At the day of dedication He fills His temple. He fills it with Hisself. The same thing, today. God will fill every temple that will thoroughly dedicate

itself to Him, any persons that will. The temple is not this little building here. The temple is not the one in Salt Lake City. The temple is not the one in Rome. The temple is you. You are the temple that God wants to dwell in and express Hisself through it, that all nations might know Him. You are

images of God, that God wants to work through. And any time that any man or any woman will forget all the falsehood that they've heard in the world, and come back to the line of the Scripture, and will keep in line.

63-0123 - Identification

109 And then He gives to us. That gives to us the—the proof. It gives to us the assurance, that, as long as we're in Him, we're already risen with Him. We won't raise with Christ; we're already raised with Christ. That's right. We are in Christ now. And if Christ be

from the dead, aren't we raised from the dead with Him? [Congregation says, "Amen."—Ed.] Amen. "Now we're setting together in Heavenly places in Him." Oh, my! That ought to make you Presbyterians shout. Uh-huh. Yeah. Certainly. Expressed images of God, molded after the fashion of Christ, that the

world can see Him in you. That's the looking glass to look at.

63-0123 - Identification

153 And the only way that we'll ever be able to be the images of God, and the sons of God, is for God to reveal to us, and express Himself through His Word, to us, and us to the world. That's the only channel. For, Christ was the Image here on earth, that you could see, God

in a Man, expressed Image of God, because God was in Him so much that they were One. And now when Christ left, He sanctified the Church, that the Church might take His place and express the Word of God. See? That's the only way it can be done. Oh, my!

64-0823E - Questions And Answers #2

1 Dear God, we thank Thee tonight for, first, for Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We thank Thee because that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We thank Thee for people who believe that. We're so glad that we have a God, not just an imaginary god, an imaginary idol, an imaginary spirit; there's nothing imaginary about it—a true and living God who lives with us and in us and works through us. Not making a statue to God, but we being living images of God...The Holy Spirit, not speaking through a statue, but speaking through a redeemed vessel—God manifested in flesh. How we thank Thee for this, the great Pillar of Fire following us, or we following It, rather, and for all the great manifestations of the same Spirit doing the same work that It's always done when It come to the earth. What a consolation it gives us.

65-0410 - The Easter Seal

82 There is a great magnet setting in the sky, that God one day will touch His fingers to. No man knows the time He's Coming, not even the Angels of Heaven, doesn't know. God alone knows. But there has been some trimmings that's come off of the Bible, Bible Christians,

believers for this hour. One of them might have been an axle back in another day. This might be some other part. It's going on to make the big regime of God. But it'll be molded into the pot of God's great cupola, and poured out again into the images of God. And just those who are magnetized to it will be

taken up. Oh, how to...What a privilege it is, to know that there is something in the resurrection that's pertaining to us!

Philippians 2:5

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

John 14:8-9 MEV

- ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that is sufficient for us."
- ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you such a long time, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

images are created to image. If you create an image, if you make a sculpture of someone, you do it to display something about that someone. You put it in the square in the middle of town, and you want people to look at it, notice it, think about that person, think something about them — that they were

noble or strong or wise or courageous or something.

57-0226 - Sirs, We Would See Jesus 21 But now, while He's here working with His Church in the form of the Spirit...Then if His Spirit is with us, He will act just exactly like He act when He was here on earth. It'll make you act the same way, because it's not your spirit any more; it's His Spirit in you, Christ's

Christ's Spirit in you. "The things that I do...He that believeth on Me (Saint John 14:12.), the works that I do, shall ye do also." See? We'll do the same works, think the same thoughts, live the same type of life. If the Spirit of God is in you, it makes you live like Christ, Christ-like. Then

become a written epistle, read of all men, Christ in you, reflecting His Light out of you, as God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and reflecting God from His own body. No man has seen God at any time, but the only begotten of the Father has declared Him. God was in Christ. And what Christ's

attitude was, was God's attitude, 'cause the two work together, the Spirit and flesh united together. Got a sermon on that: "The Dove And The Lamb." Want to get on it one night, one of these weeks.

63-1130B - Influence

53 Now we find out, though a good man, blessed of God; but, if God blesses you, you stay in the category that God has called you in. If it's a housewife, remain a housewife. If it's in a business, remain in that business, reflecting God. And whatever God has called

you to, let it be that. Because, He wants you to be a real housewife, to reflect your influence upon another person that would want to be a good housewife. If you're a good businessman, let your life so be that it will reflect Jesus Christ in your business, with honesty and integrity, and with things that

really mean something. Because, somebody is watching your life. You're influencing somebody. God has to have a real housewife. God has to have a real teen-age in school. God has to have a—a—a real minister, a real businessman, somebody that will reflect Him. Because, there they see, in you, Christ. No

matter what the rest of the world has got to do, that has not one thing to do with you or I. We are responsible to God for our lives, and for our experience with Christ.

64-0705 - The Masterpiece

68 And then come, finally, the great Head, the Head of all of it. The rest of the body just spoke of It. The foundation was laid by the patriarch; but the body was built by the Word, which was the prophets; and here comes the Head of all of it, Jesus came on the scene.

There, when this Head piece was put upon it, we find in Him the entire handiwork of God. We find in Him the perfect reflection of the Word, for He was the Word, the fullness of the Word. Now, again, God has the perfect Masterpiece again. As Isaiah said, "Behold My Servant, My Masterpiece, that I have

portrayed through all the ages of this perfect One coming. And here He stands right before Me, a perfect!" There, in His Own image, reflecting God! For He said, in Saint John 14, "When you see Me, you see the Father."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What has God given to you?
What do you give back to God?
What more might you give to God in gratitude for all that he has given to you?

I SURRENDER ALL:

All to Jesus, I surrender; All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now. All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus, I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee; Fill me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessing fall on me. "I Surrender All"

Judson Van DeVenter, 1896, Public Domain

