

“What Belongs to God” ♦ Rev. John M. Fraiser  
Matthew 22:15-22 ♦ October 16, 2011

- I. What it means to give to God – “*Render to God what belongs to God...*”
- A. It does *not* mean that we are paying God back.
    - 1. Salvation is about debts being paid, not getting further into debt (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant – Matthew 18:21-35).
    - 2. What God has done for us is a free gift. – Holy Communion
    - 3. We couldn’t pay God back anyway.
  - B. It does *not* mean that God needs something that we have.
    - 1. If we are unwilling to praise, the rocks could cry out (Luke 19:40).
    - 2. If we are unwilling to obey, he can even use a pagan king to do his will (Isaiah 45:1-7).
    - 3. God is self-sufficient.
  - C. It does *not* mean that God needs our permission in order to claim what belongs to him.
  - D. It *does* mean that we give to God what belongs to him.
    - 1. What belongs to God? Everything.

*“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”* – Abraham Kuyper
    - 2. We own nothing. We are living in God’s world as the caretakers of his stuff.
  - E. It *does* mean that the reason we give anything to God is *because* it belongs to him.
- II. What we give to God. – “*Render to God what belongs to God.*”
- A. Directly – “For all [of God’s provisions] it is my duty to **thank and praise, serve and obey** Him.”
  - B. Indirectly – Anything that we owe to another person (e.g., respect, love, obedience, service, possessions/money).

Note: In giving to Caesar what is his, we are obeying the command of Christ to give to Caesar what is his and thus, we are giving to Christ what is his: obedience.

Note: the responsibilities that we have to obey the state authorities are responsibilities that we have to obey God.