

9 Jun 2013: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **The Life Apostle Peter - Peter and the lesson on Taxation**

Scripture Text: Matthew 17: 24-27

1. The Lord Jesus Christ gave Peter 3 reasons why Christians should pay our taxes to our government. Jesus set the example in paying his and Peter's tax to the Roman governors even though they were not good leaders.
2. The first reason is that God knows about the taxation from the government and we should trust Him to pay our taxes. He is sovereign and in control of everything. Even before Peter spoke his mind out, Jesus already anticipated his query about taxation and gave him the answer first. The amount of tax we need to pay is known by God and we need to obey God to pay our tax according to the laws of the land we live in.
3. The second reason we pay tax is that we understand we are strangers on this earth. The question was asked by Jesus who should pay tax: children or strangers? Naturally it is the strangers. We are reminded in paying tax that we are strangers and pilgrims on this earth and this world is not our home. No amount of money should make us cheat on our taxes to dishonour the Name of Christ.
4. The third reason we pay tax is seen in Jesus' answer to Peter, "Then are the children free". This is the spiritual perspective that actually this world belongs to God and He owns everything. We are the children of God and hence own the world with our Heavenly Father. There is no need to pay taxes at all as God's children. But this time will only take place when Jesus returns and reigns a 1000 years on this earth. In the meantime, we pay our taxes in order not to stumble anyone. We fulfill all righteousness as God's children living in this sinful world currently controlled by Satan.
5. We can trust God to supply our needs to pay our taxes. The Lord Jesus proved that to ask Peter to open the mouth of the first fish caught. The money in the fish's mouth was sufficient to pay the tax for Jesus and Peter.