

"Render therefore to all their dues: Tribute To Whom Tribute Is Due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Romans 13:7 KJV

"They that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, 'Doth not your master pay tribute?' He saith, 'Yes.'" Peter didn't stop to think that Jesus was God, the Son, and thereby not subject to the ordinances of men. Jesus rebuked him. "What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children or of strangers?" Peter saith unto him, 'Of strangers.' Jesus saith unto him, 'Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for Me and thee.'" Another time Jesus was questioned concerning taxes. "Tell us therefore, what thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not'? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, 'Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money.' And they brought unto him a penny. 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.'" Firstly, Jesus supplied the ordinary extraordinarily. Secondly, when man's authority and God's authority conflict, God's authority supersedes man's authority, every time. Unless God's Word is being violated, however, we are to obey authority. Christ demonstrated our needs are not dependent upon natural resources, but can be supplied in supernatural ways when necessary. It is right to resist criminal acts perpetrated by authority, but speed limits and parking meters do not violate Scripture. If, however, you find yourself unlawfully subjugated, it is your duty to protect your family. Like the Quaker said to the thief, "I would not harm thee for the world, my friend, but thee art standing where I am about to shoot!" If you find yourself helpless, I can think of no better testimony than to pray and trust God for your defence, even unto death! Satan's time is short and he's killing Christians as fast as he can lest they preach Truth to some damned soul and thereby wrest that soul from the destruction Satan has planned for as many men as possible to die before he is condemned forever by God to the Lake of Fire! Physical death is not the believer's enemy for we cannot die! Physical death will only move us from the cursed dimension of the temporal into the very Presence of God, Himself! "Absent from the body [is] present with the Lord!" for the true believer death is stepping through a doorway to God!



We often give to man his due,
Forgetting God has tribute, too,
The sacrifice of thankful praise,
Obeying Him in all our ways! –CGP

Peter was beaten and jailed for preaching, but God's angel released him. However, at the end of his ministry, God allowed his crucifixion. Contrary to what evil men may purpose for you, not even death is the believer's enemy. ISIL can't kill a believer! Death is their portal to everlasting Paradise! Sometimes love must withhold an object of desire for the good of the loved one. God could destroy you by giving you what you want, but He doesn't. If we seek Him first, "ALL these THINGS shall be added unto you." There is nothing man can demand that your Father cannot supply, and nothing man can do that will destroy your Eternal Life and pleasure in God's Presence "for our Life is hid in Christ." The Truth of Eternal Life is the greatest "tribute" we can give to anyone!

"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the Law." Romans 13:8 KJV