*Thursday, March 27, 2014*

**Enlightened**

James 4:3-4 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (KJV)

Many today are asking for things that are not healthy to their walk with the Lord; they are seeking more to please the outward rather than the inward man they committed to. Just like in a marriage when one or the other strays outside the marriage commitment it ends up in divorce. Well, spiritually many have cheated on our Lord and someday when they show up at the altar for the wedding they will find their plan altered.

Mark 12:14-17 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and cares for no man: for thou regards not the person of men, but teaches the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, why tempt ye me? Bring me a penny, that I may see it. 16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's. 17 And Jesus answering said unto them, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him. (KJV)

One of the areas the so called church is cheating on the Lord is in the area of taxes, where they sidestep their obligations. I see in verse 15 above that the term hypocrisy is used. I thought the Church was supposed to set the example for the world, not the other way around?

Matthew 22:16-18 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teaches the way of God in truth, neither cares thou for any man: for thou regards 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? (KJV)

As we see our Lord is consistent in where He stands with this obligation; and given the fact that our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever, any organization that doesn’t fulfill their obligations concerning this matter will be labeled hypocrites as well; not something you should be supporting.

Luke 20:22-25 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? 23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, why tempt ye me? 24 Show me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. 25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's. (KJV)

You can add craftiness to that list also, which refers to trickery. How many have allowed the enemy to play tricks on them thinking they can sidestep their obligations when it comes to taxes?

Romans 13:6-8 For for this cause pay you tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. 8 Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loves another hath fulfilled the law. (KJV)

I don’t care what kind of reasons they use; we are either with our Lord or against Him. Guilt by association is not an excuse. God bless and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.