

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mr. Nolan, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.
Out of Town: Charles Law and family.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Giving God What Belongs to Him

By Derek Long

God requires things of individuals (Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 10:12-13). God does not expect of us what is impossible to render to Him for, "His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3, NKJV). God does not require of us what is beyond our ability to do but holds us accountable for what we had the ability and opportunity to do (Matthew 25:15; Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:17). When God requires things of us, He is simply asking us for what in reality already belongs to Him.

God told Pharaoh through Moses to let the children of Israel go (Exodus 5:1-2; 6:10-11, 13; 7:16; 8:1-2, 20-23; 9:1, 13; 10:3-4). Egypt and the Pharaoh had used the Israelites as slaves (Exodus 1:13-14; 3:7-9; 6:5-7). It would have been easy for the Pharaoh and Egypt to view the Israelites as their people. The Israelites may have been viewed by them as their servants. God though speaks of the children of Israel as, "My people" (Exodus 3:7, 10; 5:1; 6:7; 7:4, 16; 8:1, 20-23; 9:1, 13, 17; 10:3-4). God was not demanding of Pharaoh something which did not already belong to Him. Israel was God's people and God was demanding Pharaoh let the people, who already belonged to Him, to go.

God would eventually have the children of Israel in the days of Solomon build a temple. David, Solomon's father, made preparations of materials for the temple. David says of the materials gathered for the building of the temple, "For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You" (1 Chronicles 29:14, NKJV). The abundance of materials which were prepared for the temple were really already given to them by God and David realizes this fact. Whatever God requires from us ultimately is His to begin with, for, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1, NKJV).

God requires us to, "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1, NKJV). Our bodies should be used in the service of God and not in the service of sin (Romans 6:12-13). Many people in our world today resent someone telling them what to do with their body. It is common to hear people arguing they can do what they want to and with their own body. God's word reminds us God created our body (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Psalm 139:13-16; Acts 17:28-29). Since God created our body when He tells us what to do and not to do with our body, He is telling us what to do or not to do with something which really comes from Him. Additionally, God's word teaches God has bought the Christian with a price. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (NKJV). God purchased our body and spirit with the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). As a result, God owns our body and

thus has the right to tell us what to do or not to do with our body. When we present our bodies a living sacrifice to God, we are really simply giving God what belongs to Him.

God teaches us to, "Render therefore to all their due" (Romans 13:7, NKJV), and, "Owe no one anything" (Romans 13:8, NKJV). These principles have application to rendering taxes to a government because such is what is due them and belongs to them (Romans 13:6-7). These principles have application to meeting our obligations to others realizing we can never completely satisfy our obligation to love our neighbor as ourselves (Romans 13:8-10). These principles also have application to our obligations toward God. When Jesus was asked about paying taxes, He responded, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21, NKJV). Let us remember those things God requires of us in His word are things which rightly belong to Him and is the service which is due Him!