

## ***Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?***

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

"Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar's rule?"  
So some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool.  
Saying "no" would be sedition; saying "yes" would be a sin.  
Jesus changed the conversation, calling them to look within.

"Find a tax coin in your treasure; see the image that it bears.  
Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (Give to rulers what is theirs.)"  
Yet he pressed on with his message; "Give to God what is God's  
own."

We who bear our Maker's image worship God and God alone.

Lord of all, in every nation, may your word be understood —  
That we have an obligation to support the common good.  
May our taxes, all together, fund our working hand in hand  
So that life will be made better for all people in this land.

Still, we also hear your teaching: "Give to God what God is due."  
May no ruler — overreaching — try to take the place of you.  
May we listen to your message, may we honor what is yours;  
May we, living in your image, seek your kingdom that endures.

Biblical References: Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26  
Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White; harmony (c)  
2017 Christopher Gage ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") [\[MIDI\]](#)  
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